Puwersa ng Masa hits back with negative ad

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2001 ★★ 46 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 151 ₱15

Gringo a no-show; Nene cites 'overkill'

By Rocky Nazareno
and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

WITH the Department of Justice crawling with heavily armed policemen yesterday, suspected coup plotter Sen. Gregorio Honasan pulled out of plans for him to be taken in the custody of Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

GRINGO/ A18

INC backs 8 PPC, 5 Puwersa bets

THE IGLESIA ni Cristo is now backing eight senatorial candidates of the People Power Coalition, but is still endorsing five opposition candidates, including former first lady Luisa Ejercito, a senior Palace aide said yesterday. The change of heart came after President Macapagal-Arroyo held a closed-door meeting with INC head Eraño Manalo Tuesday. The source said Ejercito's inclusion was due mainly to Manalo's longtime friendship with Joseph Estrada. The INC requires its five million followers to vote for whomever Manalo endorses. *AFP*

PNP chief says info on financiers raw

'No such report has been submitted to me'

By Jowel F. Canuday,
Juliet L. Javellana,
Christine Herrera
and Andrea T. Echavez

DIRECTOR General Leandro Mendoza, chief of the Philippine National Police, said the information on businessmen who allegedly financed the May 1 rebellion was raw and should not have been leaked to the media even as President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said that charges would be filed against them.

"Normally, if there's raw information it does not come out in the media," Mendoza told the Inquirer after presiding over an Armed Forces-PNP-Comelec coordinating conference for Southern Mindanao at the Grand Regal Hotel in Davao City.

Mendoza said he had not officially received a copy of the report, which two PNP intelligence officers had allegedly submitted to him.

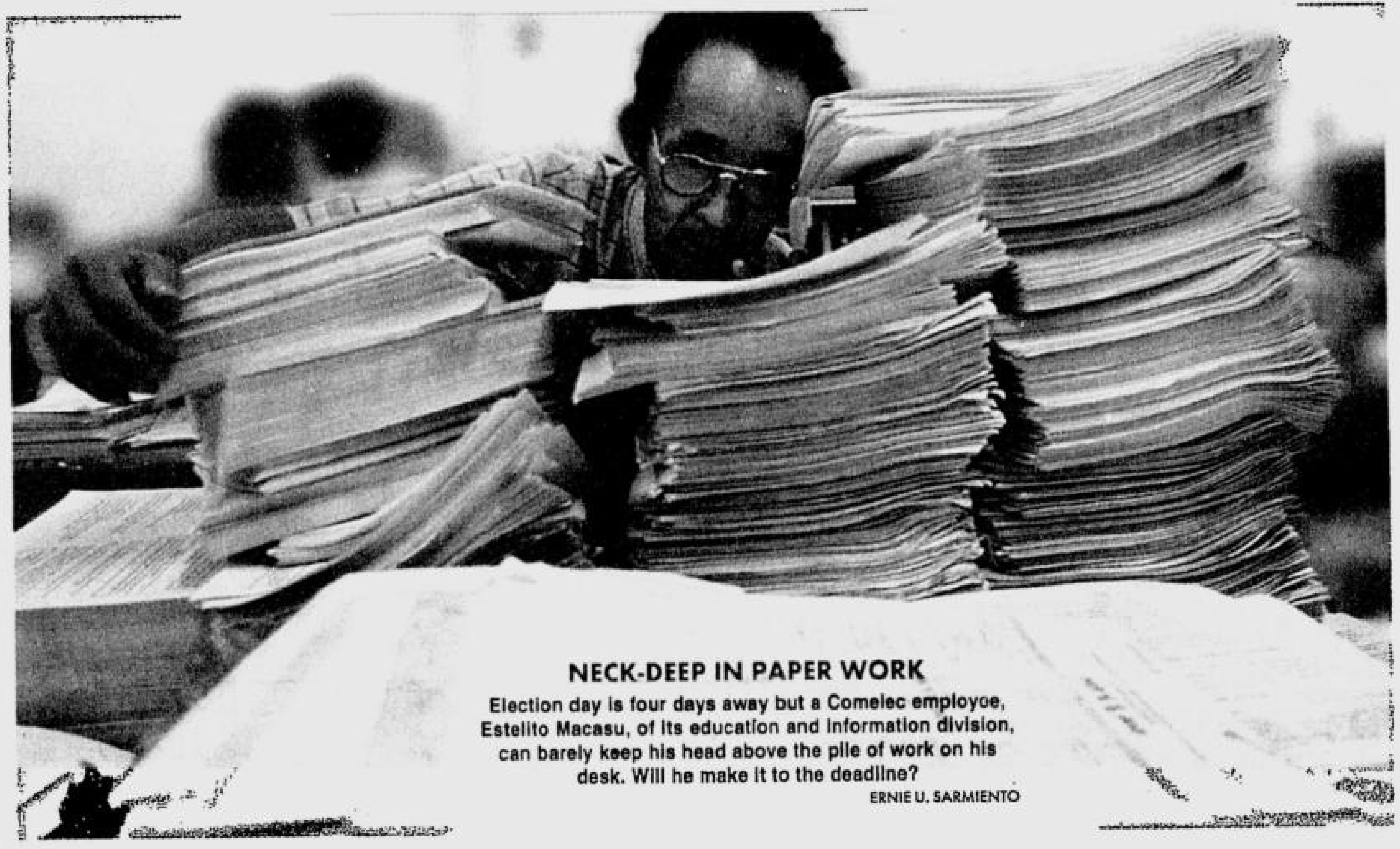
"I repeat: No such report has been submitted to me," he said in a statement.

"Yes, yes. The charges will continue," the President said in Tanauan, Batangas.

"What we are giving are acts of understanding and mercy to the common folks who were used. But as far as the masterminds are concerned, and the financiers of course, they will have to be charged before the law. We have to enforce the law," Ms Macapagal said.

The President's and Mendoza's remarks came a day after the Inquirer reported that businessman Mark Jimenez and at least 18 Chinese-Filipino supporters of deposed

PNP/ A20



NECK-DEEP IN PAPER WORK

Election day is four days away but a Comelec employee, Estelito Macasu, of its education and information division, can barely keep his head above the pile of work on his desk. Will he make it to the deadline?

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Gloria confirms 'power' proposal

By Juliet L. Javellana
and Carlito Pablo

OPPOSITION Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Gregorio Honasan, former Ambassador to the United States Ernesto Maceda and Puwersa ng Masa spokesperson Adel Antonino sent emissaries to negotiate a power-sharing agreement with President Macapagal-Arroyo on the eve of the May 1 attack on Malacañang, Ms Macapagal disclosed yesterday.

"They were trying to negotiate for power sharing and I said no," she told reporters in Tanauan, Batangas, in an ambush interview.

The emissaries were sent before dawn Monday, April 30, when it first appeared likely that a massive crowd of angry supporters of Joseph Estrada was going to march on the Palace, Ms Macapagal said.

"This is the story. They sent a message that they had formed a panel made up of Enrile, Maceda and Adel Antonino, although originally it was supposed to be Enrile, Maceda and Honasan . . . at 2 a.m. of April 30.

"And they said they were waiting for my panel to negotiate. And that's when I said we had no panel and we were not negotiating," she said, recounting the events before the May 1 attack on the Palace for the first time.

The President said the message

GLORIA/ A20

'Chinoy' traders deny funding coup plot

By Malou Guanzon-Apalisok,
Nagiel B. Bañacia
and Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

"*UNSA may akong i*-finance (Finance it with what)?" asked John Young in Cebuano as he denied financing the bloody siege of Malacañang on Labor Day.

Four other businessmen yesterday belied a report that they contributed to the P1-billion "power grab kitty" aimed at overthrowing the Macapagal administration.

"I have always believed in the legality and integrity of President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration and would do no harm to the government," businessman Mark Jimenez said in a statement.

He said he had neither time nor resources to involve himself in a worthless and futile exercise.

"It is not in my character to further sow dissention and discord to a country with a flourishing democracy but with a struggling economy," said the candidate for congressman.

He added that he had always believed in the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

In Cebu City, Young, 57, dared those who dragged his name to present proof because he was willing "to go to jail for the rest of my life, if they have even just little proof."

CHINOY/ A20

Comelec monitors 45 poll hot spots

By Gerald Lacuarta

THE COMMISSION on Elections is closely monitoring 45 provinces, cities and towns where violence is likely to break out in the May 14 congressional and local polls.

But Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo yesterday predicted the elections would be "clean, credible and orderly" despite fears by some sectors that the May 1 polls could be one of the bloodiest in history.

As of May 9, at least 43 candidates, bodyguards, campaign workers and Comelec employees have been killed and 54 wounded in election-related violence across the country.

In the 1998 elections, 38 people were killed, slightly lower than the 42 fatalities in the 1995 polls.

Benipayo said the Comelec was closely monitoring areas where political rivalry is intense, candidates keep private armies, violence had occurred in previous elections, and armed insurgents are present.

He said the Comelec is keeping watch on the peace and order situation in the Cordillera Autonomous Region and the provinces of Abra, Isabela, Romblon, Occidental Mindoro, Catanduanes, Masbate, Zamboanga del Sur,

COMELEC/ A19

JOAN BONDOC

CONDOLING with Bebe Platon, widow of the murdered gubernatorial candidate, Cesar Platon, President Macapagal traveled to Tanauan, Batangas, on Wednesday.

DEAD in the water: 4-year-old John Gabriel Damasco as he fled with his father to elude armed men.

Boy drowns after 'sona' in Navotas

By Christian V. Esguerra

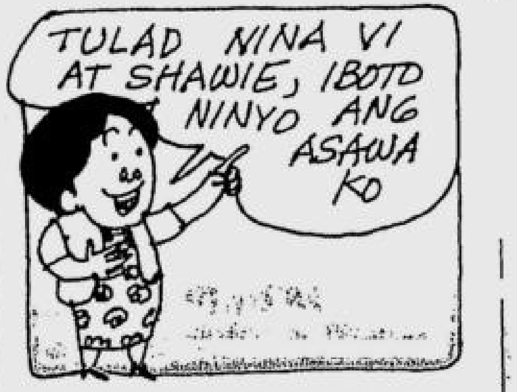
A 4-YEAR-OLD boy died during a supposed police saturation drive in Navotas Saturday night.

John Gabriel Damasco drowned after he, his father Romy, and hundreds of men in Barangay Tangos, Navotas, scampered toward Manila Bay to elude armed men in police uniform who allegedly tried to arrest them.

Fisherman Elmer Damasco, the victim's uncle, said several armed men on motorcycles and clad in uniforms of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) unit of the Philippine National Police stormed the small fishing village at 11 p.m.

Residents began shouting "sona"

BOY/ A18



TULAD NINA VI AT SHAWIE, IBOTO NINYO ANG ASAWA KO

With Ping in hiding, wife Alice comes out of the shadows

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan
and Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

PANFILO "Ping" Lacson is still hiding from authorities, so his wife has been trotted out to campaign for him.

The camp of the Puwersa ng Masa (PnM) candidate and ex-chief of the

WITH/ A20

An ad for an ad: Puwersa ng Masa hits back

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan
and Martin P. Marfil

AN AD for an ad.

After crying foul over the negative TV ads attacking opposition senatorial candidates, "friends of the LDP-Puwersa 'ng Masa" coalition yesterday came up with an ad of their own to hit back at the Macapagal administration.

They did so even as former first lady Dr. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito lambasted "administration politicians for downgrading the campaign to the level of the gutter" for the series of controversial ads that have been airing regularly since the weekend.

The former first lady accused the sponsors of the ads of "plain and simple plunder," citing allegations that P150 million worth of funds from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) were used to fund the series.

Members of the 13-0 Movement, the pro-administration group that sponsored the negative ads, are bound by a contract, although they have assured Ms Macapagal that they "respect" her request to abort their campaign, according to presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

But not only did the 13-0 Movement refuse to abort—it gave birth to a new negative ad on television on Tuesday night.

The new ad begins with the line, "*Pulitiko, masdan mo ang ginawa mo* (Politician, look at what you've done)," and shows footage of the pro-Estrada rally at the Edsa Shrine and the Palace attack on May 1.

It flashes the faces of reelectionist Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Gringo Honasan, Miriam Defensor-Santiago and former po-

AN AD/ A19

DI PWEDENG PAG-ISAHIN!

No merger of Erap cases

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THE SANDIGANBAYAN'S Fourth Division yesterday turned down a motion by the Ombudsman to consolidate the perjury and plunder cases against Joseph Estrada, saying the court wanted to see former Equitable PCI Bank vice president Clarissa Ocampo testify against the ousted President.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto told the INQUIRER that the Fourth Division categorically denied his motion to consolidate the complaint for perjury with the plunder complaint being heard by the Sandigan's Third Division, without giving a reason.

Offhand, Fourth Division justices said they wanted to hear the perjury complaint so they could personally meet Ocampo, who gained national fame after she testified at the impeachment trial of Estrada that he was "Jose Velarde," the signatory to a multibillion-peso bank account.

The decision not to consolidate the two cases was made in open court by Fourth Division chair Narciso Nario with Justices Nicodemus Ferrer and Rodolfo Palattao as members.

"They just want to see her (Ocampo) testify," said Ombudsman Special Prosecutor Humprey Monteroso, who is handling the perjury case, referring to the court's Fourth Division.

Desierto had said the consolidation of the perjury and plunder complaints as well as the illegal use of alias case, which is being handled by the Fifth Division, would speed up the trial of Estrada.

At the same time, the Sandigan's Third Division will decide today if it will grant the prosecution panel's twin motions seeking to hasten the plunder case against Estrada, his son, Jinggoy Estrada, lawyer Edward Serapio and four others—alleged "jueteng" auditor Yolanda Ricaforte, Alma Alfaro, Delia Rajas and Eleuterio Tan.

At 2 p.m. today, the Third Division headed by Justice Anacleto Badoy will hear the motion for earlier arraignment and the motion for joint bail hearing for the two Estradas and Serapio.

Desierto had said Monday that an earlier arraignment—on May 21 and instead of June 27 as set by the court—would speed up the trial in consonance with the speedy trial act and new rules on criminal procedures.

The Third Division will also hear Estrada's motion for preliminary investigation and Serapio's motion for leave to file a motion for reconsideration.

"We will have a discussion on Estrada's motion to remand the case to the Ombudsman for lack of preliminary investigation," Desierto said.

Desierto said his office conducted preliminary investigations into Estrada's cases for three months, and the ex-President had been given ample time to answer the charges.

"Except for his counter-affidavit on the Belle Resources case, Estrada has refused to answer the charges filed against him with my office. We even extended the deadline for his reply thrice," he said.

As for Serapio's motion, Desierto said it is up to the court to remand the plunder case to the Ombudsman.

"The court and not the Ombudsman should determine if there are valid grounds to remand the case to (my office)," he said.

Serapio's lawyers had argued before the court that he was not given time to question the resolution of the Ombudsman on the plunder and other cases where he was named Estrada's co-respondent.

HOUSE ARREST

Lawyer's trick or bum steer?

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

WAS it an eager-beaver's blunder or another "Delia Rajas-style" stunt by lawyer Raymond Fortun?

State prosecutors want Fortun cited for contempt for being unethical and for "trifling" with legal procedures when he claimed in a radio interview on Monday that his client, the jailed ex-president Joseph Estrada, had been granted a request to be placed under house arrest.

Fortun's statement turned out to be baseless as the Sandiganbayan made clear yesterday that no resolution granting Estrada's request had been issued by the anti-graft court.

The court's 3rd Division has ordered Fortun to explain on Friday.

Tip from TV

It turned out that Fortun, without first waiting to get hold of the proper court documents, had based his radio announcement on a supposed tip given him by an ABS-CBN researcher.

But what government lawyers find intriguing was Fortun's follow-up move yesterday asking the court to also grant the same accommodation to Jinggoy, Estrada's son and co-accused in the plunder charge being heard at the 3rd Division.

At around 1:30 p.m., Fortun, realizing he had been fed false information, filed a manifestation withdrawing the motion.

He did not appear at a 2 p.m. hearing on the plunder case during which public prosecutor Humphrey Monteroso asked the court to cite him for contempt for going to media with unverified information.

"Is this another method to precondition the mind of the public that the (request for) house arrest would really be granted?" he asked the court.

Monteroso recalled that during the impeachment trial of Estrada, Raymond and his brother Sigfrid, both lawyering for the ex-president, tried to pull off what was described then as an "unorthodox" way of cross-examining a prosecution witness.

Delia Rajas trick

During the testimony by a bank officer at the trial, the Fortun brothers dared the witness to identify a Delia Rajas who, the brothers said, was seated in the gallery that very moment.

There was indeed a Rajas in the audience, but she was not the same person referred to in the bank officer's testimony.

Some are wondering whether Fortun was an innocent victim of "*kuryente*," which in journalistic parlance means being fed false information by a source.

Interviewed by telephone, Fortun said: "We were led to believe there was an order."

Disinformation

The motion was "based on disinformation," he said.

He said the TV network even requested a phone patch, so its reporters could interview Estrada who, the lawyer said, was happy and excited about the news.

Fortun said he immediately drafted the motion for reconsideration for Jinggoy.

Court observers found it highly unusual that Fortun did not first check with the Sandiganbayan before filing the motion. Motions are supposed to be based on valid court orders. A lawyer should know this and should check his facts first, they said.

Another Estrada lawyer, Jose Flaminiano, was not amused by Fortun's antics.

"He should not have said that (on radio) when he still didn't have the document in hand. This can affect his credibility," Flaminiano said. *With a report from Donna S. Cueto*

Palace: Erap can vote, but . . .

IMPRISONED former president Joseph Estrada may be allowed to leave jail to cast his vote in next week's elections, Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said yesterday.

Tiglao said the national police had "operational plans to have Estrada vote peacefully and vote as a citizen."

But he said an alternative was for Estrada to cast his vote inside his bungalow cell in Camp Sto. Domingo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

The police had "different options and they would choose which option is the most doable," Tiglao said.

In Davao City, Philippine National Police chief Leandro Mendoza said if the police were allowed to have their way, they would prefer that Estrada and his son and co-accused, Jinggoy, cast their vote in their detention cell.

Transporting the Estradas to vote in a polling precinct in San Juan, Metro Manila would be a "big security problem," he said.

Mendoza, who was in Davao for a military regional coordinating conference, confirmed that Estrada and his son have made a formal request to him to allow them to cast their votes.

Commission on Elections chair Alfredo Benipayo said Estrada's right to vote has not been revoked since he has not yet been convicted of the corruption charges against him.

"I don't think the Comelec will complain, (but) he should go to the voting precinct under guard," Benipayo told reporters, adding that he should be brought back to prison immediately after casting his vote.

He said police should first coordinate with the Sandiganbayan before taking Estrada out of his cell.

Also yesterday, Estrada's lawyer Rene Saguisag made sure that the Sandiganbayan would recognize Jinggoy's right to vote amid media reports which, he said, tended to focus only on arrangements being made for his father.

"All this talk on said set-up and voting rights does not mention Jinggoy, which could only make him feel forlorn, dejected and rejected," said Saguisag in a supplemental position paper. *Volt Contreras, Metro Manila, and Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau, with a report from AFP*

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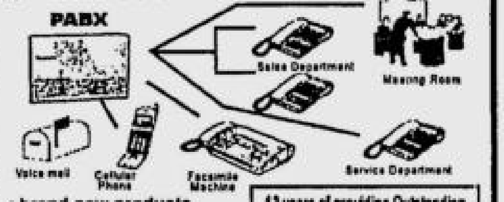

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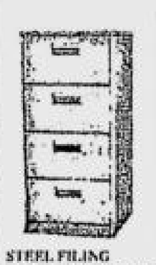
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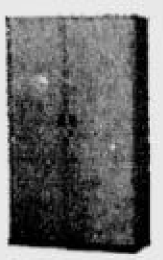
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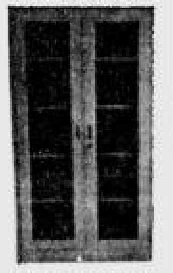
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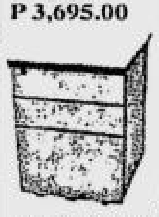
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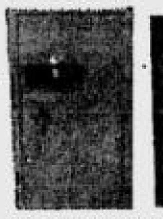
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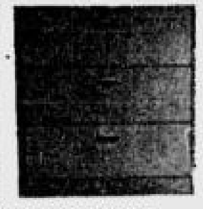
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Ni ERNESTO 'BOY' HERRERA, Ph.D.

Lubhang mahalaga na naunawaan ng lahat na ang aking pangunahing layunin ay ang kapakanan ng mga manggagawa. Ngunit may mga komunista at makakaliwa na nagkakalat ng sitsit na diumano'y ako raw ang nagpahintulot ng 'Contractualization.'

Ito'y hindi totoo. Ang batas na aking akda sa Senado (R.A. 6715 at R.A. 6727) ay mahigpit na nagbabawal ng contractualization. Higit diyan, ang sinumang manggagawa na makapagtrabaho ng anim na buwan ay dapat maging empleyadong regular.

At ang mga lumabag sa mga batas na ito'y maaaring maparusahan ng multa o pagkakakulong.

Ang contractualization ay pinairal noong 1997 ni dating Labor Secretary Leonardo Quisumbing nang kanyang lagdaan ang Administrative Order No. 10. Ang pinahintulutan ng Order na ito ay ang mga seasonal workers lamang. Ngunit, may mga employers na inaabuso ang A.O. No. 10.

Iminungkahi ko sa ating Pangulo, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, - at siya'y sumangayon - na ibasura na ang Administrative Order No. 10.

Ang aking record bilang mambabatas ay batid ng lahat. Bilang Senador, isinulong ko ang mga sumusunod na batas: (1) Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act; (2) Omnibus Amendments to the Labor Code; (3) A Legislated Wage Increase for Public and Private Workers; (4) Anti-Child Labor Act; (5) Paternity Leave Benefit Act; (6) Public Employment Service Office (PESO) Act; (7) SSS Portability Law; (8) Expanding the Coverage and Benefits of the SSS; (9) The P 5,000 Christmas Cash Gift To All Government Employees; (10) The Technical Education and Skills Development (TESDA) Act; (11) The Special Program for the Employment of Students (SPES) Law na nakapagbigay ng education vouchers at trabaho sa gobyerno at pribadong sektor sa libo-libung estudyante.

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Navy seizes Chinese poachers

A PHILIPPINE Navy patrol engaged a Chinese fishing fleet in a high-seas chase off Palawan and confiscated five small fishing boats, the military said yesterday.

The Navy's environmental patrol boat, the Kanluran, spotted the Chinese vessels off Cabili Island near the El Nido resort at noon on Sunday, triggering a chase.

Five smaller boats were left behind but the mother ship escaped, ignoring warning shots from the Kanluran, the report said.

The smaller boats were towed to Malubotlubot Island and impounded.

Ten live sea turtles and three kilos of sodium cyanide, a substance used for illegal fishing, were recovered from the sampan-type boats abandoned by a Chinese.

Also recovered from the abandoned boats were three Yamaha engines and three air compressors.

The Navy earlier said that incursions of foreign fishing vessels into Philippine jurisdiction have increased in the past months, despite increased patrols.

The incident took place far from disputed areas in the South China Sea which are claimed by both the Philippines and China and which have been the sites of past confrontations between the Philippine Navy and Chinese vessels.

AP and Carlito Pablo

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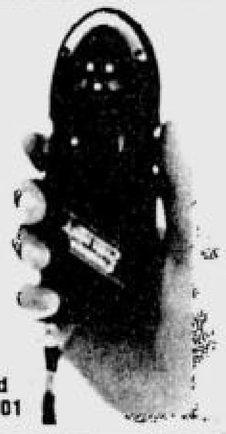
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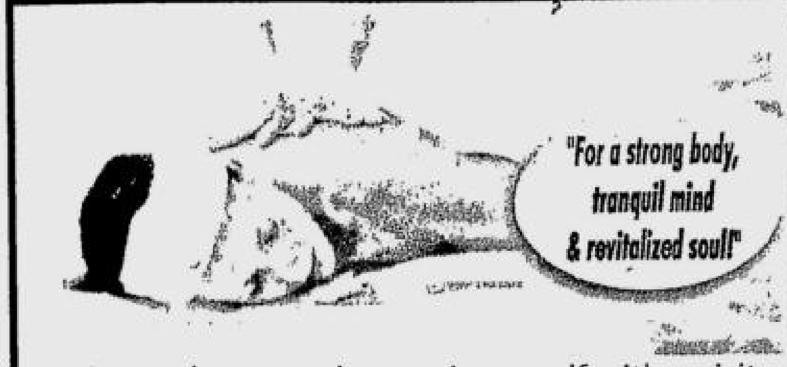
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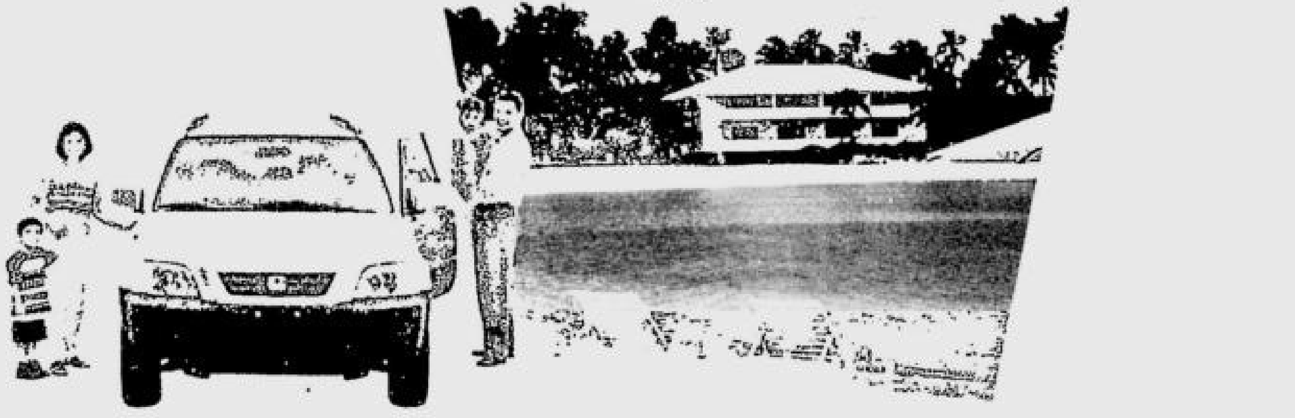
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Kasalukuyan nang iniimbestigahan ang mga utak ng rebelyon. Ang mga kapatid nating maralita ay binibigyan na ng kaukulang tulong ng pamahalaan. Si Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ay nagbigay na ng utos na siguruhin na maayos ang kalagayan ng mga demonstrador na nasa kulungan at, kasabay nito, na walang nilalabag na karapatang pantao. Ipinag-utos din ng Pangulo na pawalan na ang mga demostrador at tulungang makauwi sa kani-kanilang probinsya o tahanan. Bigyan ng pamasahe, kung kinakailangan.

Ito ay hindi laban ng mayaman sa mahirap o simbahan sa kapwa simbahan. Ito ay Pilipino laban sa kahirapan. Magkakaroon ng tunay na kaunlaran at katahimikan kung malulutas ang kakulangan ng trabaho, hanapbuhay o negosyo, bubong sa ulo, pagkain sa bawa't mesa, edukasyon para sa kabataan at pabahay.

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Meralco overcharged consumers by ₱914 M–Enrile

MERALCO is charging Metro Manila consumers an additional P914 million for March in price adjustments for power purportedly purchased from a Lopez-owned generating company. The only problem is that the power firm could not have supplied even a single kilowatt-hour to Meralco because it is not yet in operation.

Reelectionist Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, continuing his crusade against the power utility, made this revelation yesterday as he announced that he would file a class action suit against Meralco on behalf of consumers "to stop this unconscionable abuse of consumer ignorance and to recover the overcharges."

Enrile said the billings of Meralco for March included a P2.33 per kilowatt hour charge totaling P914 million purportedly paid to First Gas Power, a power generation company owned by the Lopezes which is not yet in operation.

Sweetheart deal

This overcharging, Enrile said, resulted from a "sweetheart" deal between the Lopez-controlled Meralco and the Lopez-owned First Gas Power, an obviously onerous contract for which consumers are forced to pay.

"The P914 million is just for one month, these PPA (purchased power adjustment) payments could run up to billions of pesos once a thorough investigation and audit is conducted on Meralco's books," Enrile said.

The senator said the practice resulted in padding of Meralco's additional PPA charges to consumers by 49 centavos per kwh or 21 percent of the P2.33 per kwh that Meralco billed its consumers for March.

Purchased Power Adjustment (PPA) covers the increases in the cost of power bought by Meralco from the National Power Corp. and other suppliers of power.

But according to Meralco's own records, First Gas did not supply Meralco even a single kilowatt-hour, simply because the power plant is not yet in operation.

"I don't know how long this has been going on," Enrile said. "With this kind of abominable exploitation of innocent consumers how can we reduce power rates?"

He said deregulation of the power industry and the privatization of the National Power Corp. would not benefit the people if loopholes in the law allow this "abuse of consumer ignorance."

The special payments to Meralco's sister company are being made even if it is not delivering any power to Meralco evidently under the sweetheart contract that the Lopez family negotiated between their two companies. The result, Enrile said, is an unrestricted and mind-boggling transfer of billions of pesos in profits from one pocket to the other."

"We are seeing here the evils of cross-ownership between a generator and a distributor of electricity and of allowing a bilateral power purchase contract without transparent public bidding," he said.

Asia's highest

What is worse is these abuses in rate-setting and overpricing have resulted in one of the Asia's highest electric rates making our industries globally uncompetitive, Enrile said.

Citing documents from Meralco itself, Enrile said the power utility is paying its other power supplier, Quezon Power at a rate of P5.28 per kwh compared to Napocor's lower average rate of P3.59 per kwh. This contract between the Lopezes and Quezon Power was similarly negotiated privately to the detriment of the consumers.

It's 'lights out' for PPC run

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

LAOAG CITY—It was literally a "lights out" ending for the pro-administration People Power Coalition's 13-day cross-country "victory run."

The lights went out just as the PPC senatorial candidates were about to hold a "caucus" here on the last day of their victory run, prompting local PPC leaders to point to the "dark forces" of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

"I believe that's their trademark, dirty tricks," Roque Ablan Jr. told reporters.

The power interruption was not the only awkward moment in the PPC's Ilocos sortie.

Ablan is running for Ilocos Norte congressman in a KBL-Lakas coalition ticket. The KBL, the party led by Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, is in coalition here with Lakas, the dominant party in the PPC coalition. Marcos was expected to attend the caucus.

PPC campaign director Paul Aquino said on Sunday that the PPC was holding a caucus and not a rally in Laoag. He explained that it was a caucus because it was a "campaign for our campaigners."

But sources in the PPC campaign said it had to be a caucus instead of a rally because a rally would have required the presence of the Marcoses, something which might prove uncomfortable for some PPC leaders.

As it happened, Bongbong Marcos was a no-show at the caucus.

Ablan said his camp had received a tip that power would be cut off at 12 noon, the scheduled time for the "caucus" at the Divine Word College of Laoag gymnasium to begin.

The power did go off at noon but Ablan and Col. Wilfrido Nicolas, the KBL-Lakas candidate for mayor of Laoag, were prepared for it. They had a generator installed in the gymnasium to power the sound system.

Thus, PPC senatorial bets Juan Flavier, Manny Villar, Francis Pangilinan, Franklin Drilon and Ralph Recto were able to make their campaign pitch.

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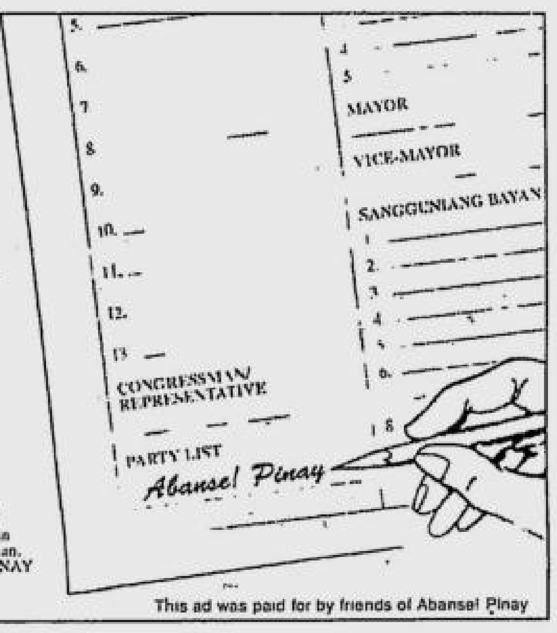

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'DICTATORIAL, ARROGANT, DIVISIVE'

MNLF: Misuari did nothing for 4 years

By Dona Pazzibugan

MISUARI

AUTONOMOUS Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Nur Misuari is no longer chair of the Moro National Liberation Front, according to a resolution passed by the MNLF's highest policy-making body on April 28.

The 40-member MNLF Central Committee which reportedly met April 28-29, declared its "total loss of confidence" on Misuari citing the MNLF chair's "dictatorial, arrogant and divisive style of leadership" and failure to bring progress in ARMM after four years of being governor.

"Following the signing of the Sept. 2, 1996 GRP-MNLF peace agreement and Misuari's assumption as ARMM governor and SPCPD chair, nothing has been accomplished with regard to the welfare of the MNLF and the Bangsamoro people in general," read the resolution, a copy of which was shown the Inquirer on Tuesday.

It added that Misuari "has long ceased" to consult members of the Central Committee and "instead adopted a dictatorial, arrogant and divisive style of leadership that has caused further disunity and polarization" within the MNLF.

"Nur Misuari is beyond the reach of counsel and retaining his dictatorial leadership . . . can cause further harm and damage to the unity of the MNLF and the Bangsamoro people," the resolution went on.

"(He) is the main stumbling block to the MNLF and the Bangsamoro people's march towards lasting peace and development in Southern Philippines."

The Central Committee also withdrew its support from Misuari as concurrent ARMM governor and chair of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development (SPCPD).

Misuari, however, appears to have totally ignored the resolution and goes about as MNLF chair.

Even as the MNLF Central Committee came up with its resolution unseating Misuari, the 4th Bangsamoro People's National Congress which convened in Zamboanga City April 29-30 declared a Bangsamoro Republic with Misuari as president.

Dr. Parouk Hussin, MNLF vice chair for foreign affairs whom President Macapagal appointed as presidential adviser for Mindanao special concerns, suspected that Misuari made the declaration to "keep the government's attention."

Hussin said the MNLF will not renege on its 1996 peace agreement with the government.

According to the resolution, the Central Committee stripped Misuari of his role as MNLF chair but named him "chairman emeritus."

He said they were still being kind to Misuari so they "kicked him upstairs."

"It's about time we reform the MNLF internally. Because Misuari as (ARMM) governor and (SPCPD) chair has not been performing for five years. We were left with few choices. It's either him or the Bangsamoro people," he told the Inquirer.

He said Misuari wasted too many opportunities for ARMM's development amid signs of "nepotism, corruption and incompetence" in his leadership.

Hussin however refused to elaborate much.

"Who else can you blame?" he said when asked if they put the blame for ARMM's failure on Misuari's shoulders alone.

A 15-member Executive Council will take over the duties and functions of the chair.

Hussin said he has already informally notified ambassadors of Organization of Islamic Conference-member countries.

"They said it was a very welcome development. They made it clear that the OIC recognizes the MNLF, not Misuari, as the true representative of the Bangsamoro people," Hussin said.

DOJ formally asks US to extradite Estrada pals

By Rocky Nazareno

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has formally asked the United States government to arrest and extradite to the Philippines two co-accused of ousted President Joseph Estrada in a plunder case.

In separate letters to US Justice official John Harris, Philippine Justice Secretary Hernando Perez invoked Article 9 of the RP-US Extradition Treaty in seeking the arrest of Charlie "Atong" Ang and Yolanda Ricaforte, who are wanted in connection with charges filed against Estrada. The two have reportedly been spotted in Los Angeles, California and other parts of the US.

Ang and Ricaforte fled the Philippines just hours ahead of the fall of the Estrada administration last Jan. 20.

The two had been implicated in the collection of illegal *jueteng* (numbers) payoffs and tobacco tax kickbacks in behalf of Estrada.

The charges brought against Estrada led to his impeachment and his eventual ouster from office.

The plunder case in which the two are charged with the former chief executive is pending before the Third Division of the Sandiganbayan.

Perez underscored to the US official "the urgency in the request" to arrest Ang and Ricaforte as both were aware of the arrest orders against them and they "might flee the US to evade prosecution in the Philippines."

US authorities were also alerted that the passports of Ang, also known as Charlie Tiu Hay Ang, and Ricaforte had been cancelled by the Department of Foreign Affairs as of Jan. 30.

In his letter to Harris, Perez described Ang as "an emissary of Estrada in receiving *jueteng* money and as the middleman of the former President in collecting kickbacks from tobacco excise taxes."

Ang was also described as the "architect" of Bingo 2-Ball, the short-lived legal numbers game where "the former President as well as Ang were to receive large amounts of money for the operation."

Ricaforte was described as "a close business subordinate of Estrada" and the "*jueteng* auditor" of the deposed President.

"Ricaforte's involvement in the criminal case was substantiated by the testimony of witnesses before the Philippine Senate blue ribbon committee and at the impeachment trial of the former president," Perez said.

While a few Filipinos and Americans have been extradited between both countries in the past, this is the first case where the personalities involved were so close to the seat of power in the Philippines.

The US, on the other hand, is requesting the extradition of Mark Jimenez, who is wanted for election fraud, among other charges. Jimenez was also a close associate of Estrada.

His lawyers have so far succeeded in delaying the decision of the Philippines on his extradition to the US.

54 Erap supporters still in jail

THE 54 supporters of disgraced President Joseph Estrada arrested during the siege of Malacañang on May 1 may have to stay a little longer at the Western Police District's detention center because the case against them has not yet been raffled to a court.

The supporters openly grumbled about the delay in their release, which was promised them the other day by President Macapagal through Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman and Pampanga Gov. Lito Lapid, the government's newly appointed special emissary to urban poor communities.

Thirty-five other pro-Estrada rallyists detained at national police headquarters in Camp Crame were released on Tuesday—without paying their individual P200,000 bail—to the custody of Lapid and the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

The 35 released were among the 57 individuals whose cases are being heard by the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 22 under Judge Marino de la Cruz Jr. Sixty-four other cases, mostly covering those currently detained at the Western Police District's pelota court, will be raffled today.

FROM ERAP'S BOOK

Stars to deliver pro-poor message

By Martin Marfil

MALACAÑANG is taking a leaf from deposed President Joseph Estrada's book in a bid to get in touch with the poor.

Yesterday, it announced that it would use movie actors and other members of the entertainment industry to get the Macapagal administration's pro-poor message across.

Among those who will be tapped for the program, to be called "Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan," are Pampanga Gov. Lito Lapid, singer Gary Valenciano, basketball star Alvin Patrimonio and teen star Jolina Magdangal.

Another actress, Sharon Cuneta, has reportedly promised that she would work for the program but that would be "after elections."

The announcement was made by National Anti-Poverty Commission's Teresita "Ging" Deles who justified the presence of the entertainment personalities saying that the poor would not be able to identify with Cabinet members accompanying the entertainment personalities.

"When their idol fell, they thought that the poverty alleviation program would be stopped," Deles said, speaking in Filipino during a press conference yesterday.

Expectations

"The problem is they have expectations, they have messages . . . and for some of them, when Erap left, they thought the program would be stopped," she said.

In the coming days, Deles said, that Cabinet members and entertainment people will be touring urban poor communities and their first targets would be those whose residents participated in the May 1 attack on Malacañang.

The entertainers would be the "front act" to entice the poor to attend while government officials would be making the rounds, interviewing the audience and gathering data concerning their problems.

Once the problems are collated, Deles said, government would deploy men and respond to the needs of the communities.

"If they say that they need their school building fixed, it will be fixed within the next two days," she said.

The government, Deles said, will initially focus on problems that can be immediately solved.

Long-term problems

Long-term problems, like land for the landless, would be passed on Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council or HUDCC.

She said that, in some cases, the problem of land could easily be solved but in others, it would take a longer time.

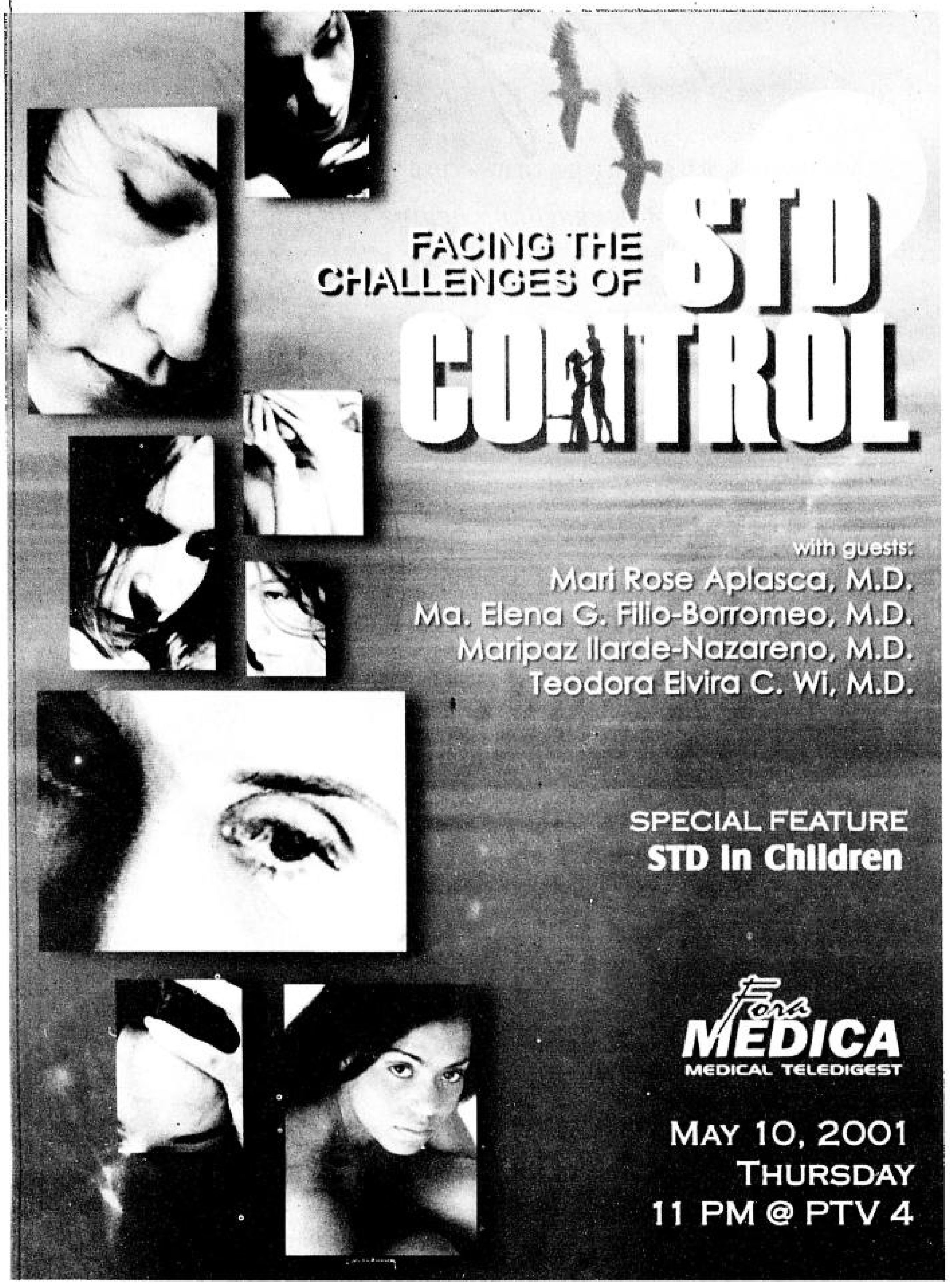
"Government will have to prove that trust is worth it. If government does not come through . . . if we don't win the trust on our merit, then the goodwill would have been wasted," she said.

By the end of May, Deles said, people should be convinced that "serious work" is going on.

Deles admitted that they expect the people to be "cynical" of their program and some resistance from the urban poor communities.

"They are initially cynical," she said, noting that this was what Lapid had told them earlier.

But she added that this program would force government to listen to the poor as they air their gripes.



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10. PANGILINAN
11. RECTO
12. TAÑADA
13. VILLAR

CONGRESSMAN / REPRESENTATIVE: ____

PARTY LIST: ____
Select one from among the political parties, sectoral parties (Labor; Peasant; Urban Poor; Indigenous Cultural Communities; Women; Veterans; Elderly; Disabled; Fisherfolks; Overseas Workers; Youth; or Professionals) Organizations or Coalitions enumerated in the certified list posted on the voting booth.

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2. ____
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Ping summoned on kidnap-slays

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has subpoenaed former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson and 13 others to answer kidnapping and murder charges in connection with the abduction of seven Chinese businessmen and the slaying of two of them in 1998 and 1999.

State prosecutors gave Lacson and the others until May 18 to present themselves and submit counter-affidavits on the charges made by former Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) agent Mary Ong and relatives of the victims.

Lacson had headed the PNP and PAOCTF concurrently when the alleged crimes took place.

Ong, who is also known as Rosebud and Mata Hari because of her exploits as an agent, and three relatives of the victims had filed complaints against Lacson and his men with the National Bureau of Investigation.

Two of the victims' relatives had come from Hong Kong just to file their complaints.

Aside from Lacson, those charged were Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop, Senior Supts. John Campos, Michael Ray Aquino, Teofilo Andrada and Francisco Villaroman, Chief Inspectors Avelino Abogado, Meddel Fone and Dennis Ventura, Senior Inspector Julius Mana, lawyer Denn Tuvera, and civilians Ralph Tuvera, Joey Ramirez and Ricardo Watanabe.

The charge sheet showed Lacson and his men allegedly collected P10 million in ransom for the release of the Chinese nationals identified as Zeng Jia Xuan, Hong Zhen Qiuao, Zeng Kang Pang, James Wong , Wong Kam Chong, Chong Hiu Ming and Wong Kam Chong.

Chong Hiu Ming and Wong Kam Chong were allegedly killed by the suspects even after their relatives had paid their ransom.*Michael Lim Ubac, with Anissa Apolinario, BR Guiruela and Katrina Zuño*

Siege of Palace to cost Puwersa

THE BLOODY May 1 assault on Malacañang allegedly instigated by opposition senatorial candidates, among others, is going to cost them plenty.

This according to a leading pollster who predicted yesterday that the opposition faces a "backlash" that will affect its candidates in the Puwersa ng Masa coalition which is allied with deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Social Weather Station president Dr. Mahar Mangahas told reporters it was his personal opinion that "there would be a backlash against the PnM."

"Isn't it obvious? The administration's People Power Coalition would get a big boost because rebellion charges would bring down the instigators." Mangahas said.

However, he cautioned the public against making any final conclusions about the elections since the results of a survey conducted after the May 1 violence have yet to be completed. He said he expects these results to be in by this weekend.

Nevertheless, Mangahas said, he would be surprised if there was no backlash against the opposition candidates. "That would be my expectation," he said.

The results of the last survey conducted by the SWS before May 1 showed that the PPC would win eight seats of the 13 being contested in the Senate, with the PnM coming away with five slots.

Among the PPC candidates who made it in the survey were Juan Flavier, Joker Arroyo, Franklin Drilon, Sergio Osmeña III, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Manuel Villar, Francisco "Kiko" Pangilinan and Ralph Recto.

Party-list polls get SC go signal

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THE SUPREME Court yesterday ruled that the party-list elections on May 14 would push through despite the participation of major political parties in the parallel elections.

The Tribunal decided to uphold the right of major political parties to participate in the party-list elections even after three party-list groups petitioned the court to disqualify these parties.

Instead of disqualifying these parties, the SC ordered the Commission on Elections to proceed with the elections.

However, the high court stressed that the proclamation of the groups that will win in the parallel elections should be held in abeyance pending the final resolution of the petition filed by Bayan, Overseas Filipino Workers and Bayan Muna.

Party-list groups Sanlakas, Bayan Muna and OFW believe that party-list groups belonging to political parties do not represent marginalized and underrepresented sectors. As such, the participation of these political parties is a mockery of the party-list law or Republic Act 7941.

They branded them as "non-marginalized" political parties that should be deleted from the list of accredited party-list groups.

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GOOD GOVERNANCE
REFORM
EDUCATION
ENVIRONMENT
NATION-BUILDING
PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE FOR EDUCATION,
THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
EDUKASYON ANG UNANG HAKBANG
TUNGO SA TULOY-TULOY
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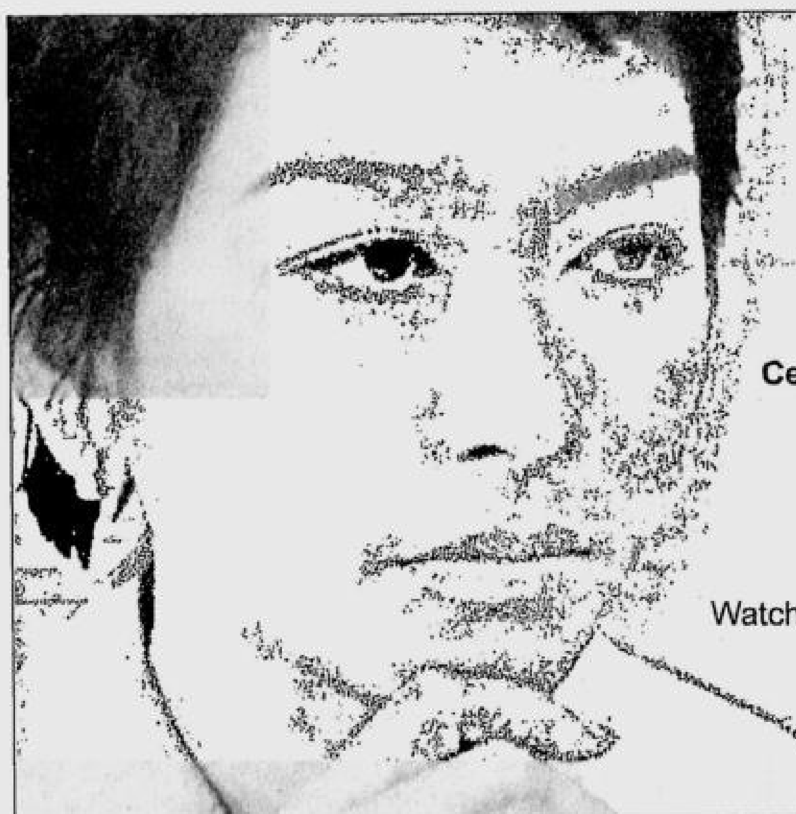

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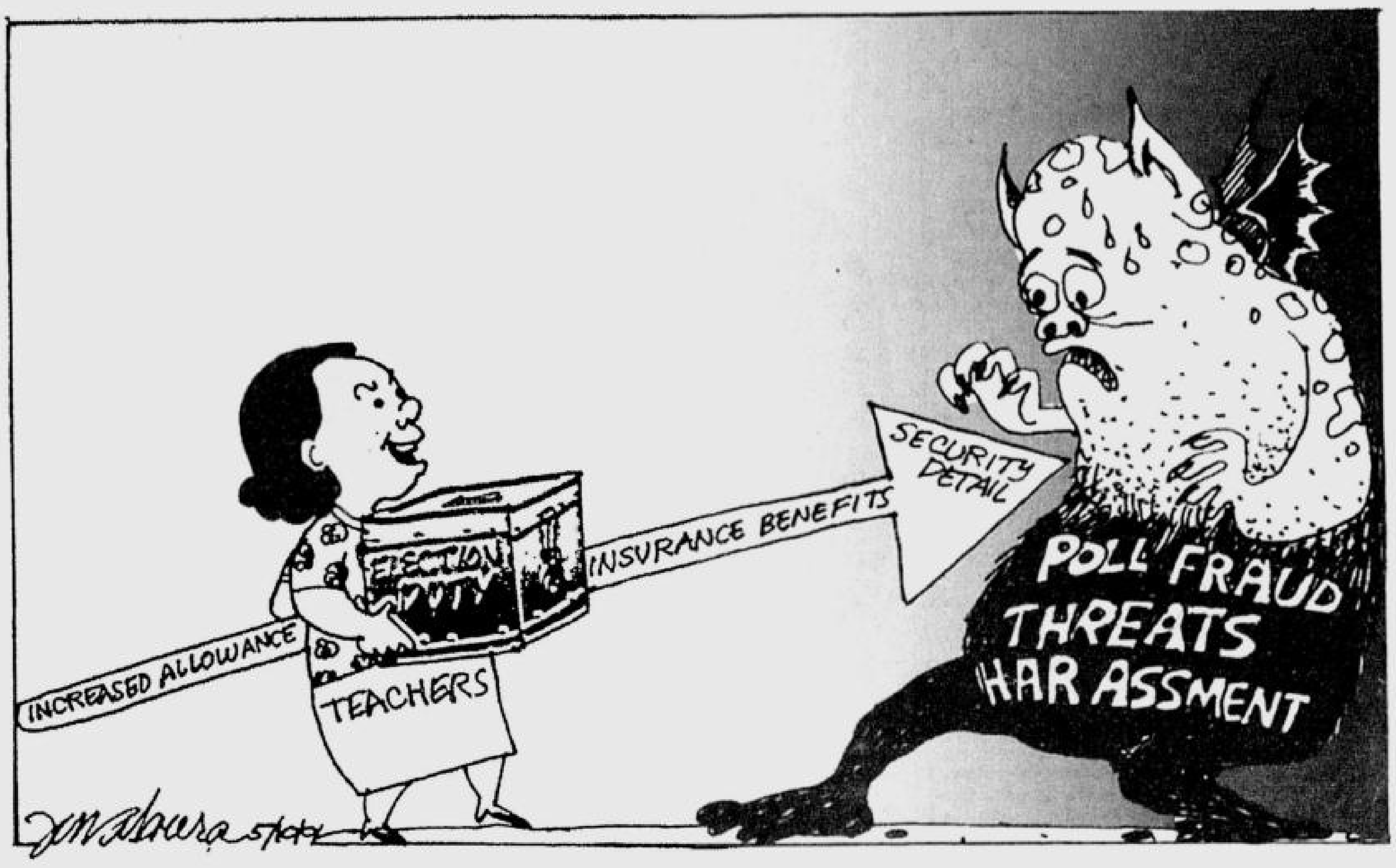

Jm Alcuera 5/10/01

Funds for a power grab

THE PHILIPPINE National Police is investigating intelligence reports that a group of businessmen allegedly contributed at least P1 billion to finance the May 1 attack on Malacañang by followers of deposed President Joseph Estrada. The report identifies at least 18 Chinese-Filipino cronies of Estrada as among the contributors to the fund.

EDITORIALS

What is disturbing about the report is that it describes the financiers of the rebellion as "shady characters suspected of involvement in drug dealing, smuggling and jai alai operations." The fact that the report named names and traced their links to illegal activities deserves more serious investigation instead of just being dismissed as "hearsay."

If the report is true, then the May 1 attack on the Palace was more than a political conspiracy to seize power. The conspiracy had a financial dimension.

The PNP report reinforces earlier reports, partly based on eye-witness accounts, that the storming of the Palace was not a "spontaneous" rebellion by the poor but a well-planned military-style operation greased with plenty of money to buy the hordes that were marshalled at Edsa to hear inflammatory speeches for six nights before attacking the seat of government.

The PNP report says that the P1-billion fund was divided into P500 million to finance the coup and another P500 million as a reserve fund. The report adds that about P20 million a day, or a total of P100 million, was spent on crowds for rent, food and transportation money to sustain the rally for five days. A financial operation on such a scale could not remain undetected for long. And according to the report, only half of the P1 billion could be accounted for, prompting disputes within the ranks of the opposition over disbursements.

This report is corroborated by other reports indicating that the fund disbursement caused division among the opposition leaders. It has been confirmed that in at least two meetings during the Edsa rallies, a group identified with former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara had angry exchanges with the group that was handling the money and which wanted to send the Estrada loyalists to Malacañang.

This split became evident when Angara spoke at one of the rallies opposing the inflammatory rhetoric of Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Miriam Defensor-Santiago who were inciting the crowd to storm the Palace. The split was so evident that it delayed the original plan for the march.

Squabble over money

THE SQUABBLE over money seemed to have been the more serious cause of a split in the opposition ranks than the question of whether to storm the Palace. At one point, Angara is said to have confronted former PNP chief Panfilo Lacson, saying that some senatorial candidates were already spending lots of money on their own and were not getting assistance from the huge kitty that was being spent on the rallies. The split divided the opposition into two camps. In the moderate camp were people like former Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora and former Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno who warned that a march could have bloody consequences. But the hot heads obviously prevailed, resulting in the May 1 mayhem.

We see in the events in the run-up to the May 14 elections an opposition awash with cash supplied by businessmen who are identified closely with Estrada and who had gained favors from him, as well as Binondo Chinese money flowing to support one senatorial candidate. The financiers have a stake in the restoration of Estrada and in the election of some senatorial candidates. These contributions are financing both a conspiracy to overthrow the government and the election campaign of candidates they favor.

It used to be that contributions were funneled only to finance electoral campaign, which was perfectly normal in Philippine politics. But this time, money was used in a conspiracy to grab power.

It is this aspect that makes election financing dangerous. The financiers are getting out of hand and playing with fire by involving themselves in plots to seize power. It is for this reason that the PNP should go deeper into the intelligence report about the sources of funds for the Edsa rally and the attack on the Palace, and charge those who may ultimately be found to have financed the power grab.

Fearless forecast in senatorial race

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IT is only four days to the moment of truth. I have been asked many times who I think will win in the senatorial race, and I have refrained from doing so because it could be misinterpreted as an endorsement of the candidates who land on my list of winners. But since it is only a few days before the elections, I think it would be harmless to venture with my fearless forecast. Anyway, the Social Weather Stations has already come out with its latest survey showing eight People Power Coalition candidates, four Puwersa ng Masa candidates, and one independent in the winning circle.

However, the survey was taken before the foiled attack on Malacañang allegedly plotted, instigated and led by PnM candidates and other allies of Erap. How would the attempted power grab effect the balloting? Would it result in less or more votes for the Erap supporters?

That misadventure is a double-bladed weapon. It could either drive voters away from the foiled power grabbers, or many of the thousands of protestors who joined People Power III could still stick to their guns and vote, ironically, for the candidates who manipulated, used, exploited them and abandoned them after the coup attempt failed. Fanatics behave in mysterious ways, and many of those who attacked Malacañang are pro-Erap fanatics. However, a good number of them were bribed, misled, recruited and trucked in to join the rally and then were not paid, abandoned and marooned in Metro Manila when the attack failed. If they had any sense left, they would vote against the people who used and then betrayed them.

So that SWS survey could be off the mark; another one is needed to see how the coup attempt would affect the people's votes. But there are only a few days left before the May 14 elections and there may not be enough time to make a comprehensive and accurate survey before the polls. Which is just as well as winners in surveys get an unfair advantage over the losers. The survey results create a bandwagon effect for the winners. Voters tend to vote for those whom they think would win. That is why there was an attempt by Congress and the Comelec to prevent poll surveys a week before an election, but the Supreme Court struck it down as a violation of the freedom of information.

Anyway, what is my "fearless forecast" on the senatorial contest? The most fearless is that there will not be a 13-0 shutout. I don't believe the PPC will get all the 13 Senate seats. That would make the administration cocky, cock-sure and even abusive without a Senate to fiscalize it. Much as we hate the PnM candidates, we need a few of them in the Senate to at least expose abuses.

I may be wrong, but I think two or three PnM candidates and one independent can end up in the winning circle, the independent being media man Noli de Castro (he is a guest candidate of the PnM). De Castro is the topnotcher in the surveys but he could end up more modestly in the actual counting. The reason is that, being a political newcomer, he doesn't have a big enough political machinery of his own or party machinery to see to it that the votes cast for him are actually counted for him. Since he has refused to cooperate and campaign with the PnM candidates, the latter's leaders may not be as vigilant for him as they are for the others.

Reelectionst PPC Senators Juan Flavier, Franklin Drilon, Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Sergio Osmeña III will likely lead the senatorial winners, followed by Rep. Joker Arroyo and former Speaker Manny Villar, both of whom played key roles in Erap's impeachment. Villar would have been a sure loser. In fact, he would not even have been included in the PPC Senate ticket had he not railroaded in the House the impeachment complaint against Erap. That single lucky act will make him a senator.

Rep. Ralph Recto and Francis Pangilinan will become senators mainly because they made the right decision in marrying movie superstars Vilma Santos and Sharon Cuneta, respectively.

Former Sen. and Rep. Ernesto Herrera and, I hope, also former Sen. and Rep. Bobby Tañada are next. Tañada is trailing the others but I hope he makes it because he is a man of proven integrity. He has the name of his esteemed father, the late Sen. Lorenzo Tañada, to protect.

Alas, Winnie Monsod, Liwayway Vinzons-Chato and Obet Pagdanganan are trailing behind and they will have to work very hard in the remaining days of the campaign to claw their way into the winning circle.

In their places in the winning column could be former Senators Edgardo Angara and Orly Mercado, former Press Secretary Dong Puno and former PNP chief Panfilo Lacson. (The first two performed very well when they were in the Senate.) Lacson has been hurt bad by the attack on the Palace of which he is suspected of being one of the leaders. Moreover, he, like Gringo Honasan, are on the lam and cannot campaign. Their headquarters in many places have been abandoned and their workers have not been paid and have dispersed. Other PnM candidates, especially Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who have to prioritize defending themselves from the charges against them and keeping themselves out of jail, cannot campaign either. And that means they may not be able to herd their followers to the voting precincts on election day, too. That could result in a 13-0 shutout.

We will find out in a few days.

Can the King of England enter?

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

IT was, I believe, Disraeli, the Victorian-era British prime minister who referred to a complex political question in Europe at the time—perhaps it was Schleswig-Holstein—by noting that the issue was so confusing that only three people in all of Europe understood it: a certain doctor, "and he is dead"; a Bavarian professor, "and he has gone mad"; and, "Myself. And I have forgotten."

In a similar vein, amid all the legal confusion, the Supreme Court has forgotten that its prime purpose for existence is to resolve the great constitutional issues of the day. By sidestepping the momentous legal questions facing it—warrantless arrests, the nature of bail, the state of rebellion—and throwing these to a lower court, it has compromised its central role in the constitutional firmament.

Many were disappointed by the Court's two-page fuzziness on the issue and its failure to give authoritative guidelines as to what is or is not legally permissible. For instance, if the evidence against Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile was mere hearsay, why was bail granted instead of having the charges provisionally dismissed? The effect of these non-deciding decisions has been to protect the members of the Court from controversy more than to lay out the path of the law for us to follow.

In truth, the Supreme Court's reputation as the last bastion of civil liberties isn't what it used to be. Prior to September 1972, the Court repeatedly restrained executive prerogative and congressional overreach. Even the decision that rebellion was a "continuing offense," reached in the years closely following the height of the Huk uprising, was a liberal one, designed to prevent the filing of multiple cases of ordinary crimes against rebels and to afford them the right to bail.

Unfortunately, in the three decades since 1972, the Supreme Court's record has been one of accommodation, timidity and compromise. Try to list down cases where the Court in these years directly challenged the claims of any Malacañang incumbent on an issue of public liberties or declared a major act of Congress patently unconstitutional for violating the Bill of Rights and you may find yourself looking at a blank sheet of paper in front of you for a very long time.

The Court is living on a reputation made in the first seven decades of the last century. After that, it has been coasting along on that reputation.

The problem with warrantless arrests is the same as that noted by the late Sen. Soc Rodrigo during the martial law years. It is not that there was one Marcos at the apex of power, but that such a system "created many Marcoses." Every private or corporal shared this great power: the arrest, search and seizure orders of the period ended up being signed in blank and issued to the military and police like free movie passes.

Nor is it enough to argue, on the matter of political rights, that the issue has been "finally" decided by the Court. By that reactionary standard, lawyers today should still be arguing that the "citizen assemblies," which were recognized by the martial law-era Supreme Court, can be convened at any time to replace the Constitution according to the will of the government of the day.

The context of "continuing crimes," not just as the nature of an offense but as an exception to the rule on warrants, was formulated in a period when the factual basis was entirely different. In the 1950s, the Huks reached the very gates of Manila and they were armed not only with sticks and stones. Transportation and communications were primitive. Too often, access to a judge was difficult, if not impossible. Seventy percent of Filipinos lived in rural areas where guerrillas moved easily about. Today, fully 55 percent of Filipinos live in urban areas and the physical and political infrastructure is entirely different.

At this time, there can be no justification left for warrantless arrests in rebellion or any other case except when the crime has just been or is about to be committed, especially when there is no imminent danger to the government and when the civil courts are open and functioning. I have no doubt whatsoever that if there were sufficient evidence, any judge would agree to issue the requested warrant of arrest. Why government lawyers are besotted with this dangerous procedure is totally incomprehensible.

Although it is not entirely clear whether there was a "*sona*" of poor homes in Manila and Caloocan or not, that practice would be as intolerable as having a "*sona*" of all Ayala Alabang residents followed by their being hauled off to the nearest precinct for interrogation. Precedents for the poor are precedents for the rich.

There is the famous passage read by then Sen. Sam Ervin at the Watergate hearings, quoting a great lawyer of the American colonial period in a case involving the issuance of "general warrants." It notes that, in law, the poorest man in his humblest cottage in England is as secure in his home as the greatest lord in his castle. The wind can blow through the holes of his thatched cottage. Leaves from the tree beside may enter his front door. The sunlight can stream in. The birds may enter uninvited. But the King of England cannot enter.

We need to strike that fine balance between a government that is too strong for the liberties of its citizens and one that is too weak to protect itself from threats to its survival. This in turn requires us to have a Supreme Court that, using the Constitution and reason as its guides, sets forth rules that are responsive to every guaranty of the Bill of Rights.

The Court's refusal or inability to do its constitutionally mandated job causes more, not less, confusion for both government and citizens. That may be the most unsatisfactory legal outcome of all.

TV ad didn't lie

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

MANY citizens I have talked to did not agree with President Macapagal's request, made to the 13-0 Movement, that it pull out its negative ad on TV. The political ad which ran for several days on major TV channels featured opposition senatorial candidates inciting the pro-Erap crowds at the Edsa Shrine last week with their demagogic speeches, prior to their march and assault on the Palace. The ad ended with the query, "*Iboboto pa ba ninyo ang mga kandidatong ito?*"

* * *

The President requested its pullout in the interest of "national healing," but a number of citizens called this columnist to say that what was only being served was the truth, that those film clips didn't lie and they were not invented. The so-called negative reaction, said these citizens, only came from the well-funded phone brigade of Ronnie Puno. One upset advertising executive stressed that any reconciliation could be made after the elections; in the meantime, she said that ad could deliver votes for the People Power Coalition.

No doubt that ad was very powerful, and since it was for television, it could have been rather inflammatory. In this country we are not used to such negative ads. But though it has been pulled out, what will linger is its message and to those who paid for it, this is what matters. Let's see if it would translate into more votes for the PPC senatorial candidates, enough to pull up those who are lagging behind.

* * *

If the negative TV ad hurt the opposition, the INQUIRER's banner story yesterday about how at least 18 Chinese-Filipino cronies of deposed Joseph Estrada and supporters of senatorial candidate Ping Lacson allegedly contributed about P1 billion for the recent rebellion and the campaign kitty of the opposition could be the last nail on the opposition's coffin. This story is very believable. For one thing, the Edsa pro-Erap five-day gathering and the Palace assault were very well organized and funded.

That INQUIRER story, based on intelligence reports fed to Malacañang, couldn't have come at a worse time for the opposition, for it alleges that money from drug dealing, smuggling and gambling is funding the opposition's campaign. That makes it tainted money, and the assumption is that if you accept it, you become a tainted candidate. Now, many know for a fact that in contrast to the well-funded opposition machinery, the Lakas-PPC campaign lacks funds. With this story, however, every Lakas candidate, local and national, can be expected to ride on this issue, if only to counter his problem with funding.

* * *

PPC senatorial candidate and former BIR Commissioner Liwayway Vinzons-Chato recently guested on Radyo ng Bayan to discuss the first conviction under the Anti-Plunder Law, involving a former BIR employee, Virginia Manalili, who was accused of pocketing, in conspiracy with several other persons, some P265 million in taxes. The malversation happened during Chato's term at the BIR. She explained that the moment she knew about the crime, she got to work and laid out a trap for Manalili's syndicate. Manalili and her associates were involved in a complex year-long conspiracy that included as accomplices people at the bank where the checks were deposited.

* * *

The result of the test case for the Anti-Plunder Law authored, among others, by former Senate President Jovito Salonga and Senators Bobby Tañada and Alberto Romulo, sent an unmistakable warning to people in government, according to Chato. But Chato's fellow guests were asking: Now that the small fish has been convicted, when will the big fish be convicted? Chato smiled and said, hopefully, very soon. She added that if elected to the Senate, she would use the expertise she gained from five years as BIR chief not only to help crack down on corruption, but also to stimulate the economy through a combination of lower tax rates and more efficient tax collection, and legislative reforms.

During the program Chato, a UP-trained lawyer, came across as an intelligent, highly articulate and dedicated woman who would be a big asset in the Senate.

* * *

Recently I wrote of the harrowing experience of some tribal people from Rizal who endured fatigue and hunger and walked nearly an entire day to return to the mountains after the assault on Malacañang. They were innocent victims of deceit by politicians. At my old elementary and high school alma mater next door to Malacañang, the College of the Holy Spirit, the sisters also had an unforgettable experience.

At around 4 a.m. last May 1, about 800 to 1,000 pro-Erap people who were part of the mob that stormed the Palace broke down the two main gates of the CHS by smashing the huge padlocks with their big rocks and overwhelmed the few school guards. The predominantly male crowd begged the nuns to let them in, saying they did not want to return to the fighting. The nuns were worried about their summer students who were staying overnight since many rioters had blood-shot eyes and reeked of alcohol. They locked themselves and their wards inside the building. From the third floor they could see the soldiers on the street below fire warning shots into the air and the rioters hitting them with their *dos por dos*. "We admired the soldiers so much, especially how they were able to control themselves in the face of that provocation," recalled CHS superior Sr. Leonor Azanza.

* * *

Many of the rioters suffered from tear gas. Inside the school grounds, they soaked their heads in the fishpond, "killing all the fish," Sister Leonor said. But they were well-behaved. Exhausted, the rioters just lay down on the school grounds and slept; and upon waking they ate the provisions they had brought along. The nuns saw that they were well-equipped. After they left, the school personnel found knives, bullet shells and tear gas canisters. The intruders, who were predominantly young men, told the nuns that some of them were from Divisoria in Manila while others said they came from as far as Isabela. There were also MMDA personnel among them. They stressed again and again to the Ilocano-speaking nuns that they didn't want to fight.

As the sun rose, the nuns fed them some of the food they had originally cooked for the soldiers. By mid-morning the rioters asked if they could be allowed to exit through the gate facing San Beda College. Sister Leonor thought that "perhaps they were already touched by the grace of God" and agreed. Once outside, they started shouting, "*Ay salamat, nakawala na tayo. Makakauwi na tayo.*" Others, however, were not so lucky.

Those nasty ads

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SAYING now should be a "time for healing," President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has asked the 13-0 Movement to pull out its negative campaign ads against certain Puwer(s)a (a)ng Masa senatorial candidates.

But the campaign, according to one of its creators, was really meant to be a "short burst," and was originally scheduled to end on Tuesday evening. "There isn't enough time and we've run out of money," explained Yoly Ong, founding partner of the Campaigns Advocacy and Public Relations Inc. (Capri).

The series of ads was underwritten by the 13-0 Movement, a coalition of various religious and civic groups advocating a straight PPC victory in next Tuesday's polls. They featured scenes from the chaotic march to Malacañang, interspersed with video clips ("lifted from network news") showing the opposition senatorial candidates instigating the Edsa mass, and newspaper headlines blaring the bloody conclusion of that misadventure.

"We really felt the candidates involved should be made to answer for the violence and instability they created," said Ong. It took them just two days to prepare the campaign, using material that is "on record and available to anyone monitoring the events."

They also took pains to check the Commission on Elections' implementing rules and regulations to verify if negative ads, or what are known as "opposing ads" in the United States, are allowed under the Fair Elections Act. Under the rules, says Ong, "these ads are considered 'neutral' and the other side can answer in kind if they want to."

* * *

WELL, they have, in a way. Shortly after the first ads came out, senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson issued a statement saying he knew the persons behind the ads but mentioned only one name: Yoly Ong.

Says she: "I know what that meant. And I get the message. The mere fact that it was Ping Lacson who delivered the message..."

Doubtless she was referring to Lacson's fearsome reputation as well as his shady past. Their own ads on Lacson intersperse images of the candidate and the Malacañang riot with words like "bang!" "boom!" and "ping!"

"It will be difficult for them to intimidate us," declares Ong. "We only accept clients whose causes we believe in. In this case, we believe that God is with us."

Capri, with veteran ad and PR person Bong Osorio as president, is a pioneer in advocacy communication in the Philippines. "It is not advertising," Ong hastens to clarify. Instead of promoting products, services, images or brands, advocacy communication seeks to "sell" ideas and causes. "It is imperative that Capri shares the same ideals and passions for the cause promoted by its client," the company states in a press release. "Through this type of communication, the company has made its stand on issues of responsible parenthood, AIDS education, domestic violence, lifting the political ad ban, the Ahon-Bayan program of the DSWD, and other similar public service campaigns, many done gratis et amore."

Causing some confusion, though, is the fact that Ong also chairs Campaigns and Grey Inc., a major advertising agency. "Campaigns and Grey is not PPC's 'media handler' as some quarters claim. It is, however, the media placement agency for the 13-0 Movement, in charge of dealing with media organizations in placing television and print advertising," the firm says in a statement. Similarly, management and creative folk in other advertising agencies have gotten involved in creating and placing ads for other candidates, though they do so as individuals and do not involve the agency officially.

Let the folks at Capri have the final say: "Central to the spirit of advocacy communications is the sharing of ideals with the client and promulgating these through the effective use of mass media. In this year's senatorial contest, Capri has cast its vote. It will not be intimidated for voicing out what it believes in, in the best manner it knows how."

* * *

ALSO quite firm and unabashed in their advocacy are the folks at ABS-CBN, which aired an "Election Special" Tuesday evening to bring to a close its electoral campaign: "Vote for Me: Boto Mo, Kinabukasan Ko (Your Vote, My Future)."

The campaign poster (and a huge billboard at the ABS-CBN headquarters) features a young girl staring soulfully at the viewer. The point they wish to put across is that Filipino children, our children, are the ultimate stakeholders in this and any election. It is not the candidates or even the voters who have the most to lose or gain from the results of the contest. Rather, it is the children who will inherit the good and the bad laws and programs that our chosen candidates will create and implement. Put in this context, there really is no excuse for voting whimsically, for selling out, or for not voting at all.

I caught only the last few minutes of the special (they should replay it, preferably on Sunday, the day before the elections) and so cannot make a thorough review here. But I must say I was moved by Gary Granada's song about the Edsa throng and their tragic march to Malacañang. Some words I remember: "Even if we have a dozen Edsas, as long as the people remain poor, democracy will have no meaning for them."

* * *

AS I write this, I'm getting ready for the taping of the "Grand Senatorial Debate" which airs this Saturday on GMA-7.

Despite the producers' best efforts, they weren't able to get any opposition LDP-Puwersa ng Masa candidate to agree to debate with their counterparts. So speaking for the opposition are two PnM guest candidates—Orly Mercado and Santanina Rasul—joined by two independents, Perfecto Yasay and Homobono Adaza.

Facing off against them are four PPC candidates: "Mareng Winnie" Monsod, Serge Osmeña, Ernesto "Boy" Herrera and Obet Pagdanganan.

The "Grand Senatorial Debate" is expected to last for three hours, and my earnest hope is that in the end, we would have shed more light than heat.

Don't 'reclaim' Edsa Shrine

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

WHILE shocked, militant, church workers long immersed among the poor were trying to come to terms with the havoc wreaked by the murderous, misdirected pro-Estrada mob that occupied the Edsa Shrine and attacked Malacañang at dawn on May 1, there was, in the aftermath, the hierarchical Catholic Church calling on everyone to "reclaim" the shrine. Jaime Cardinal Sin sounded the call for peace-loving Filipinos to wear blue and head for Edsa. That same afternoon, the Edsa Shrine was "reclaimed."

Wasn't that enough? Why this obsession to reclaim, to make reparation, to cleanse, etc.? Is this not creating a greater divide between those who consider the place sacred ground of our democracy and those who trampled on it at the height of the pro-Estrada rally? I do not want to say "between the rich and the poor" because that would be playing into the contrived, dirty class-war scenario that the filthy rich instigators of the rampage have conjured.

But definitely, the Edsa Shrine has never been the haven for the poor the way the Quiapo and Baclaran churches are. And to keep saying that the Edsa Shrine should be reclaimed (from whom?) is like rubbing pepper on the sores of those who were there last week for the first time to support their flawed, undeserving movie idol-turned-president-turned-jailbird not knowing that their sores would be used by their idol's ambitious, Benz-riding supporters who retired to their mansions after they had dispatched the agitated mob.

Last Sunday I wrote a piece on how church workers who have been with the poor for many years shed tears and beat their breasts for not doing enough, wondering where they have failed. Reflecting on the events was both heartbreaking and cathartic. As I went through that piece (severely cut for lack of space) and read on to the inside page, I saw beside the jump page a news story on the cardinal's call for people, the poor especially, to again go to the shrine this Sunday "to participate in this act of reparation for the profanation of the shrine." The story's title: "Edsa Shrine Desecration, Sin to poor: Make amends, join procession." My heart bled a river.

Why did this have to be another exercise in reparation? There's a reason to pray on that day, the eve of the elections, and I have nothing against that. But why this "reparation for the desecration" theme again? Enough already.

If there is anything we should make reparations for, it is for our collective sin against the poor. Unlike the church workers who wept because of their inadequacy, the church hierarchy, it seems, does not get it. *Hindi nila ma-gets.*

I am not romanticizing the poor—not those inebriated ones who attacked Malacañang and hurt many people, including themselves. But Fr. Ben Moraleda of Kaalagad is right: they are not the enemy.

Someone who has lived among the poor for many years, whose journey I have followed closely ("from a distance" as the song says), knows what the truly poor's capacity for greatness is, and was more brutal. The ones who went berserk were the city's ragtag beggar army, the Chicago Tribune said, paraphrasing her. The category, she said, is the lowest rung on the poverty scale, the caste that lives off daily handouts, has no intention to work and can be bought by anyone for a meal and a daily allowance. "To call them the poor," she said, "is an insult to the poor because the poor have dignity and want to work."

None of the poor with whom her group lives and works, though neglected by the government and the church, joined the mob attack. "We have politically educated our people to understand what is right and wrong and how to distinguish between good and evil. If you leave people ignorant, they are liable to follow evil leaders."

Their prayer and meditation have helped, she told me. We make God the center, she added. Believe me, these are the poor who are pulling themselves up inch by inch day after day through honest work but who would give up a day's income to help build homes for their fellow poor who were victims of the Mount Pinatubo eruption, who will stand in the sun and rain to denounce injustice, who can sit still for long periods to ponder the immensity of God.

I know this. I have also met the organized, dignified poor in the Payatas dump in Quezon City, the ones who do not hang around glib politicians, preferring to ally themselves with the grass-roots church while they work to claim their own promised land some 10 kilometers away so they can leave the garbage hill that collapsed and killed hundreds last year.

Yes, there are nuns and priests (Vincentians) who work and live at the foot of the dump. They work quietly and without fanfare, inhaling the toxic fumes that the poor inhale, exposing themselves to the foulness that Metro Manila has dumped there. I have met lay people who work among the hill tribes, who have *gabi* and *kamote* as their staple food. They are not there to convert the poor to the faith, but to bring them to the dignified state that is their birthright. They are the heroes and saints in my book. I hope they live long.

In my forays into the wilderness as a journalist, I have met great church people who work selflessly among the forgotten and the lost. I have written about them, but oh, I wish I could do a whole book on them, to make the world know about their love. Beholding their lives makes me feel like a useless castaway.

Theirs is the kind of life the church should encourage, a contrast to the fetish for buildings. We should respect sacred symbols and places of worship, yes, we should be outraged when a mosque is desecrated. Now why shouldn't we be when ours is trampled on? To a certain extent we should be, but we have enough sound theology and faith to make us realize that the church that is the building is not really the church. The people are.

* * *

Watch the INQUIRER-GMA 7-sponsored Grand Senatorial Debate on Channel 7 at 9 p.m. on Saturday. The candidates who did not show up missed their chance.

Mamu

YOUNGBLOOD

Arnold A. Altamira

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

MY mom's story is simple. Very simple.

She came from an upright family and was raised according to strict Christian values. She studied hard, worked even harder, studied some more, married her first and only boyfriend, raised a woolly troop of seven, was always on time and never tried to hurt anyone. And when the final call came, she bowed out gracefully.

Fancy things did not impress her. Although she was always content and grateful for what she had, she practically stopped at nothing just to give a little more to the ones she loved.

But like any other simple life, hers also had its share of drama and conflict. For years, she had been hobbled sporadically by bad health. I remember her undergoing major operations and treatment for a variety of illnesses that were supposed to be debilitating. Also, she had been a victim of gross discrimination in the workplace, an unspeakable injustice that would have broken anybody else's spirit. And yes, she suffered "periodic heartaches," which came as regularly as the end of every semester when my grades would arrive (which is an entirely different story, however).

But in the face of all these trials and tribulations, she exhibited tremendous resilience. And every time, she found a way to come out on top. Up to the end.

When the doctors said she had a brain tumor, six months before she passed away, my knees buckled. I was so shocked that for several moments, I was unable to say anything. On the other hand, she who was the direct recipient of that harrowing blow was still as positive as any proton. But then she was not really the type who got easily rattled and intimidated by adversity.

I recall that when I was about 8, I asked her, trustingly and with all the naiveté of a third grader, what my motto in life should be. She replied without batting an eyelash: "Success lies not in never falling, but in rising every time you fall." I guess she lived this all her life and that she saw this new episode, scary as it was to us, as nothing more than a speed bump.

And we knew that it was not for show. Her positive demeanor did not stem from a desire to display outward strength for the rest of the family to emulate. Rather, it came from a real will to survive—a strong determination to continue life and living.

So for six months, the family was trapped in a very unusual emotional zone. Everyone tried to act normal and take everything in stride, but inside we were gearing for war. After all, this was the first time a crisis of this magnitude had hit us. There was no time to mull and find a rationale for such a fate. Simply, everything said and everything done were centered on mom's well being.

Visits to the hospital, both of the scheduled and the rushed varieties, appointments (and disappointments) with her doctors, scouting around for other possible medication, being scouted in return by bearers of alternative medicine, shifting hours as hospital *bantay*, entertaining well-wishers, basking in the overwhelming show of love and support from family and friends—all these became ordinary fare for us. We quickly got attuned to that kind of set-up and no one minded giving other things up just so Mamu's condition improved.

For her part, mom responded with inspiring gallantry. Though the pain at times became so overpowering, she always had that toothy, reassuring grin that told us she was giving the beast a run for its money.

Despite the perfunctory assurances from her army of doctors that "there is still hope," the gradual deterioration of her internal functions and the physical manifestations of the disease indicated that the end was approaching. And so we had to, really tightly this time, embrace the reality facing us. This was a full-blown case of brain cancer, and the statistics were not in our favor.

Hope was never lost but to be in denial would have been a lot more painful and devastating. We had to be strong for her, and for ourselves. No one was to show signs of weakness. Not in front of this woman, from whose strength we gathered our own. Not in front of this lady, in whose gentleness we so joyfully and willingly drowned. Hanging tears were only allowed to fall during silent prayers before sleep.

My tears poured by the bucket as my prayers tripled in frequency and intensity. Not only did it hurt to see mom slowly and seemingly systematically being ravaged by the illness, it was also uncool for her to leave at that moment. I didn't know when it's cool for any loved one to leave, but I knew it wasn't the right time for her to go away.

How could it be cool when she was singing "Indigo Girls" and "10,000 Maniacs" with me in the car? How could it be right when we were all set to launch our partnership in a fertilizer business we had decided to call Chicken Shit for the Soil? How could it be okay when the late-bloomer that I am, I was just beginning to understand her simple joys and her inner pains, and she, too, was beginning to appreciate that I truly, deeply cared? Indeed, it was a bad time for her to go.

But she went away anyway. She went after she had made peace with everyone she might have offended and everyone who might have hurt her. She went when she had assured everyone she was ready to ride into the sunset and face her Creator. And in a final act of courage and love, she went only when we were ready to let go, and after she had stage-directed her own wake and funeral.

When the moment arrived, of course there was grief, but there also was celebration. Sure there were tears, but more radiant were the smiles. Sure it was her death, but what loomed largest and over everything else was her life. Clichés are clichés because they always ring so true.

It has been three years. A lot of big things have happened in the family and bigger ones are still to unfold. It would be a blast if she were still here to share and make *pakialam* in all these. Of course, we all have somehow snapped out of the emptiness brought about by her absence. But I really miss her.

I miss the way she'd flip when I held open the refrigerator door longer than necessary. I miss her gladly coming down for seconds when I arrived late for dinner so that I wouldn't have to eat alone. I still blow kisses at her picture before going to bed. I still look up to the night sky and acknowledge her presence somewhere beyond cosmic boundaries.

I still look at the untouched crossword puzzles in the papers and acknowledge her presence just within mortal reach. I wish our plans to engage in business together still stood. I wish she had met Amanda.

I am grateful for everything she gave me and everything she didn't let me have. I thank her that everyone of us turned out to be a little like her: a little more caring, a little more understanding, a little more tolerant, a little more kind and a whole lot stronger.

When my Mamu died, she bore all the scars of that painful ordeal. It is indeed humbling to witness the vulnerability of the human body. But for us, it came not without the fortune and the honor of realizing the triumph of the human spirit. And the mother's heart.

Arnold A. Altamira, 27, says he sells fish.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

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Inherit the wind

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE OTHER day, I talked to someone who had been at "Edsa III" and gotten the story from the inside, so to speak. He gave me this version of what happened. I don't know how much of it is true, but I suspect most of it is.

The massing of people at Edsa after Erap's arrest was never planned by the Puwersa ng Masa. It began as an action by Erap loyalists—the crowd that gathered at 1 Polk St. was largely that, though not all of it was for hire—shortly after Erap's arrest. But by nightfall, there was a sizeable crowd at the Edsa Shrine, beefed up in no small way by the Iglesia ni Cristo. Eraño Manalo was disgusted by the sight of Erap, a friend and patron, being photographed like a hoodlum, and in great wrath ordered his religious troops to march to Edsa.

By nightfall of Wednesday, April 25, my friend said, there was a sizeable crowd at Edsa. It grew bigger the next day, when other religious groups, like the El Shaddai, joined in. But they weren't the ones that swelled the crowd to the awe-inspiring flood of humanity the rally became. The ones that did so were the wretched of the earth, as Franz Fanon called them, who started pouring in by morning of the next day. The rally was a powerful magnet for the faceless and voiceless mass, and they came, loud and angry, praying and cursing, shoving and pushing.

That was when the opposition candidates, seeing the tremendous opportunity, God or the devil, fate or Erap, had given them, seized on it and tried to use it for their own ends. What they did not know was that they were taking the tiger by the tail.

The crowd got bigger and bigger, astounding even those who were now calling it "Edsa III." By Thursday, they had to assign marshals to try to instill order in the ranks. Later, observers would talk about crowd psychology and warn of the dangers the massing of that incredible number of people in one place posed. It was a tinderbox waiting to explode. But even they failed to appreciate just how much of a tinderbox it was. My friend, who was not unused to the harsh life, having gone underground during martial law, reeled from the sight and sound and smell of that crowd. The pushing and shoving were literal, he said. People would fight over nothing at all. Someone would shout that he needed to "do something"—punch a "*coniotic*" guy or smash a car—and when another person tried to prevail on him to get over his craziness ("*magpalipas ng buryong*"), they would end up snarling at each other.

It was the only rally he went to, my friend said, where the organizers were asking the crowd to keep a close eye on their belongings. That was repeated again and again over the loudspeakers. Nobody said, "Beware of pickpockets" or "Beware of thieves," but that was what it meant.

On one side of Edsa, you saw a long row of women washing clothes, like a bizarre parody of a bucolic scene of women by the *batis*. The washed clothes were strung up in various parts of the shrine. The stench of piss was powerful, said my friend, and even the bravest stomachs would be hard put to take it near its source, which was beside the walls. Some residents of the area were seen contributing food to the ralliers, which probably owed to their fear of taking the brunt of Los Angeles-type riots, based on class rather than race, if they should break out. The food was an appeasement to the gods of war, or dogs of war, whichever was the more ravenous.

If Edsa wouldn't come to Payatas, Payatas would come to Edsa. That might have been the motto of "Edsa III." It was fairly literal. The day after the crowd left Edsa, said my friend, you could plant something in the pile of earth that had collected there. "The grime of the poor," someone said jokingly. "*Libag*," another said seriously.

That was the crowd Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Juan Ponce Enrile, JV Ejercito and their companions were whipping up to a frenzy night after night at Edsa. If outsiders failed to appreciate the full terrifying potential of that crowd, even more did its leaders. Santiago was the most assiduous and direct in stoking up the crowd to fury. She was the one who kept calling President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo "*tarantado*" and urging the crowd to "*Lusob! Lusob*!" Enrile employed more finesse, or he had one eye, or ear, cocked to the legal implications of what he was saying. He toyed with the crowd, shouting "We will march to Malacañang to fight"—pausing for a few seconds, and then adding—"for the Constitution!" To much laughter from his audience. JV was the one who was most fearful of the crowd doing something foolish, but it was he, too, who kept egging them to teach the Ayala "*coniotics*" a lesson, obviously impervious to the threat of being perceived as one himself.

That was the crowd that, reeking of gin and anger, reeling from frustration and exhortation, spun out of control in the early morning of Tuesday last week, bloodying the face of Labor Day. Looking back, said my friend, the critical point came when the INC pulled out of "Edsa III" after negotiations with Ms Macapagal (yes, there were negotiations, swears my friend, though Ms Macapagal would deny it afterward). They might not have constituted the bulk of the mass of humanity there (contrary to critics who keep dismissing "Edsa III" as a project of the *bayaran* and religious conscripts), but they were a solid presence in more ways than one. They were a steadying influence, a stabilizing force. Their departure left the field to the *palaban*, to an angry mob that wanted the thing to end with a bang and not with a whimper—and got both.

The danger signals were already there on Sunday night, said my friend. The leaders who had begun to worry about an impending explosion—yes, there was a rift in the leadership, swears my friend, though they would all deny it afterward—were being booed by the crowd each time they cautioned *hinahon* and sobriety on stage. You knew catastrophe was at hand, said my friend, when on Monday night, the eve of the riot, they booed Loi herself off the stage when she tried to pacify them in the name of her husband. By then it was too late.

None of this excuses the leaders, as I said before. You keep stoking a hungry and restive crowd to fury, exhorting them to "*lusob, lusob*" night after night, you cannot say later you meant what you said rhetorically. The hunger and anger of that crowd were not rhetorical. But it all leaves an important lesson for us, a lesson the Bible itself tried to teach a long time ago, the same Bible the leaders of "Edsa III" love to quote. Which is that people who build houses on sand always inherit the wind.

You roister the bowels of this country's seething social volcano, and it won't just spit fire on your enemies, it will spit fire on you. It's something future demagogues, charlatans and opportunists would do well to heed.

* * *

Comments are welcome at-dequiros@vasia.com

Too much democracy?

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I'M amazed at how often people, Filipinos and non-Filipinos, diagnose our problems as being caused by "too much democracy." Such remarks become more common whenever we have elections. Everyone, it seems, has something to gripe about: the politicians coming around to ask for "donations," the poster pollution, the din of campaign motorcades, the inane speeches and song-and-dance routines of candidates, and the violence that takes dozens of lives.

Why bother indeed with elections? Why can't we just elect a strongman (or strong woman) who can be president for several years and take care of appointing competent people to run the country? Look at Singapore, people say, and how it progressed under the long-term leadership of Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

Ah, Singapore and its antiseptic allure. Singapore was the model as well for the likes of Alfredo Lim and Miriam Defensor-Santiago (they even named their People's Action Party after Lee's). Remember, too, how many Filipinos voted for these two characters, and how they continue to attract votes with their promises of creating a disciplined and presumably progressive Philippines.

But Singapore is so much easier to administer, being a city-state with a population of about 5 million, half that of Metro Manila. Besides it's terribly simplistic to say Singapore progressed because of a "strong" leader. There was more to Singapore's development than Lee's iron hand. Lee and his party believed in free enterprise but also institutionalized a womb-to-tomb social security system, providing its citizens with basic needs, and more.

Can you imagine what would have happened if Santiago or Lim did become president? I am sure they would have convinced us, at some point, to give up our civil liberties in exchange for development. And that would have been the end of the Philippines.

We only need to look at our other neighbors to look at the possible scenarios for "authoritarian development." I write this in Indonesia, which is now struggling with their young democracy. Suharto touted a model of "guided democracy," holding periodic sham elections that kept him in power for more than 30 years. There were no elections for most other key executive positions: provincial governors, for example, were appointed.

There was peace in Indonesia and the country developed rapidly, so much so that it nearly overtook the Philippines in terms of per capita gross national product. But even as Indonesia moved forward, Suharto's family and cronies plundered the state coffers, and when the Asian economic crisis broke out, the Indonesian economy—its foundations decaying from wholesale looting—collapsed.

Suharto was deposed shortly thereafter but that wasn't the end of Indonesia's problems. The peace that Suharto created was artificial. Internal conflicts that had been brewing for years, based on ethnicity and religion, erupted with a vengeance. We see those violent upheavals today in different parts of Indonesia (my friends here laughed about the "state of rebellion" declaration, saying that what happened in Mendiola last May 1 counts only as a "minor riot" in Indonesia).

My Indonesian friends are watching the Philippines, and worry. They wonder if Indonesia, too, might end up having "too much democracy." There are moves here to impeach President Wahid, marked by intense debates in Parliament, and frequent street rallies and demonstrations.

But, I have to explain to my friends, the problem is not "too much democracy." Politics of convenience and opportunism is not democracy. Neither are the free T-shirts and baby-kissing during election campaigns.

Democracy develops in the processes of debate and of consensus-building. It is most visible in the debates in Congress or Parliament, and in television talk shows and street rallies. The elections, too, play a key role in democracy. But what counts in the long run are the less dramatic processes where democratic values are formed, at home and in schools, where people learn about equality and justice through actual experiences.

I'm actually optimistic about the Philippines. We've been able to convict a fairly high-ranking Bureau of Internal Revenue official for plunder. We've started proceedings against Erap. All that is part of democracy, too, in terms of telling the young that democracy isn't just elections and abstract ideals.

Then there's PO2 Grant Fausto Savedia, the policeman who refused to use his gun even as a mob of Erap loyalists were beating him up. Savedia reminds us of how far we have come in developing the foundations for democracy, a civil society where we are able to restrain ourselves, thinking beyond self-preservation and base instincts. Contrast him with the august Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago brandishing her gun and threatening to shoot anyone who tries to arrest her. There you have an opportunity, through negative example, to teach people that might is not right.

And the cynicism? I think that's healthy, too. Democracy develops, unevenly and often fitfully. The vote-buying and election gimmickry and creatures like Santiago—we have to live with that for now. The problems are there not because we have too much democracy, but because we still have too little of it.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.org

LETTERS

What are they going to do with San Lazaro?

I AM very much concerned about the future of the San Lazaro Hospital, a government hospital specializing in infectious diseases like tuberculosis, measles, cholera, HIV-AIDS and acute viral rabies. There are reports that San Lazaro will be converted into a corporation, a set-up where patients will have to pay for services to generate income for the hospital whose budget is again to be slashed. This is in line with the government's plan to privatize health care services, meaning cutting down allocations for hospitals and health care services. Where will the poor patients go for their health needs?

I was a resident physician at this hospital in 1998. My two-year tour of duty there exposed me to the problems of our health care delivery system.

In Pavilion No. 10 or the tuberculosis (TB) ward, patients are packed like sardines, with two patients to a bed. There is one nurse for every 20 or 30 patients. It is not uncommon to have two or three simultaneous cardiac arrests. The PTB ward 10 is the pavilion with the highest mortality rate in the whole hospital.

Pavilion No. 8 is the measles ward. I vividly remember one 24-hour duty during which I had to alternately intubate two infants who could not breathe. This involved pumping air into their lungs using a laryngoscope (an instrument for inspecting the larynx or throat). Unfortunately, one of the babies died although I did all and the best that I could do. I was blamed by the gun-wielding policeman father whose child died of measles complication. He was shouting, "Doc, *bakit ganoon? May bakuna ang anak ko sa* measles!"

I wanted to explain that there could have been a problem in the measles vaccination brought about by the cold-chain vaccine failure. Measles vaccines have to be in a proper cold temperature or they lose their potency. An enraged father could not probably understand a logical explanation for the death of his child. I know because I am a father, too.

I just hope the powers that be will junk this idea of corporatization and privatization of government hospitals. I sincerely believe that the government isn't lacking in resources. The priorities are just wrong. The powers that be must do something to correct this, or they will end up facing a thousand angry fathers.—**LINO MACASAET, M.D., infirmary services, Department of Health**

Let justice take its course

TO MANY people, the arrest of former President Joseph Estrada came as a shock. This is because for many of us, putting a rich, powerful and influential person in jail is beyond imagination. And the guy is a former Philippine president.

I admit that I had doubts that the Sandiganbayan and the Macapagal administration would have him arrested and jailed. But for the masses, for those who still believe that Joseph "Erap" Estrada is their hero, the champion of the poor, the man who they see in the movies sleep in dark alleys and live in squatter shanties, the story does not end there.

The masses cannot understand why Erap should be jailed. They cannot believe, no matter how many courts try Erap's cases, that Erap is a corrupt person. Why? Because they do not understand the difference between Erap in the movies and Erap in reality. They will always see him as a poor man's son. As a representative of the poor. And no matter what we do, they will never open their eyes and ears to the fact that their hero in the movies has been a villain in real life all along.

Justice must prevail and that is the least the government must do for the people. Those who don't know the meaning of due process will never see eye to eye with those who are happy to see Erap in jail. Justice must never be compromised. If we are truly equal in the eyes of the law, every wrongdoer must pay for his crime.

The country has to move on. The government has more important things to do to improve our lives. Let's move on and let justice take its course.—**NOEL CARPIO, AEC Graphics Inc., Ramax Subd., Quezon City**

Amvel clarifies land deal

WE write in behalf of our client, Amvel Land Development Corp. ("Amvel") in response to the letter of lawyer Ernesto B. Francisco which was published last May 3.

- Amvel never said that its property was "expropriated." Francisco put words in the mouth of the officers and owners of Amvel. What Amvel meant when it used the phrase "forcibly acquired " is that it never offered its property to the government for sale. It was the government that was keen on acquiring its property. Despite the fact that what transpired was a negotiated sale, Amvel had no recourse but to agree to dispose of its property in favor of the government.
- The property is zoned and classified as commercial. It is totally erroneous and misleading on the part of Francisco to insist that it has a zonal value of P4,500 since it is classified as residential. It is very important to stress that it was the city council of Parañaque, through Ordinance No. 9708 enacted on Nov. 11, 1997, that classified the property as commercial. The appraised value of P15,355 per sq. m. was arrived at by the Toll Regulatory Board by adopting a formula close to averaging four appraisals obtained from the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and three reputable private appraisal companies: Royal Asia Appraisal Company, Asian Appraisal Company and Cuervo Appraisal Company. Moreover, Francisco deliberately suppressed the fact that several adjoining pieces of property were also acquired from other owners by the government for the same C-5 Link Project at prices higher than P15,355 per sq. m.
- The allegation that Amvel had prior knowledge that the C-5 Link would traverse the property is based on conjecture. Also, the allegation of Francisco that at the time Amvel bought the pieces of property or entered into joint venture agreements, it already knew that the same would be traversed by the C-5 Link, is not only illogical, but absurd. Amvel has long been a real estate developer in Parañaque, having developed as early as the 1970s such big subdivisions as the Multinational Village and Moonwalk Subdivision. The property acquired by the government for the C-5 Link Project, measuring 79,568 sq. m. (or 7.9 hectares), was taken from the 232,078 sq.-m. property which was intended as the site for the proposed Amvel Business Park. And Amvel, it bears stressing, started acquiring pieces of property in the area as early as 1996, long before the C-5 Link Project was conceived. If Amvel already knew about the project, it should have only bought the property where the C-5 Link would pass through and spared itself the rigors of dealing with the various owners of the property and spending for their improvement.

That this transaction of the government with Amvel was aboveboard is further underscored by the fact that unlike other deals entered into by the government, the titles were clean and duly registered in the name of Amvel even before the government paid one-half of the agreed price.

Amvel continues to develop the remaining unaffected portion of the property and to prove that it has not ceased in its development, work continues to this day until the blueprint for the Amvel Business Park is fully implemented and completed.

It is earnestly hoped that with this rejoinder, Francisco will stop resorting to publicity gimmicks which are clearly meant to muddle the issues and malign the good name and reputation of Amvel and its officers. Otherwise, we will be constrained to advice our client to take appropriate legal actions to protect its interest.—**JOSELITO GUIANAN CHAN, counsel, Amvel Land Development Corp., Chan Robles and Associates Law Firm, 21/F PSE Centre, East Tower, Ortigas Center, Pasig City**

Correction appreciated

KINDLY accept the sincere appreciation of the academic community of the College of Law, Ateneo de Davao University, for the front-page article on our students who placed among the top 10 in the latest bar exams.

The prominence which you gave to the correction to an unfortunate mistake has not diminished the reputation of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. On the contrary, you have grown in stature in our estimation and this will continue to attract loyal readers.

More power to you and your staff!—**HILDEGARDO F. IÑIGO, dean, College of Law, Ateneo de Davao University, P.O. Box 80113, 8000 Davao City**

Group made up of Army reservists

THIS is to shed light on an article published last May 3, 2001 titled "Who's mystery group?"

I would like to inform you and your readers that the group belongs to the 1302nd Community Defense Center, NCR Regional Community Defense Group of the Army Reserve Command. These are Army reservists which form part of the contingency plan of the Philippine Army. The Army, being a citizens' army, calls for "interoperability" between the reservists and the regulars. This was part of that exercise.

In the future, we will ensure that similar exercises will be coordinated with other agencies such as the police and the local government so that no miscommunication or untoward incident may occur.

We thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.—**LT. COL. ANTHONY J. ALCANTARA, Office of the Army Chief Public Affairs, Fort Andres Bonifacio, Makati City**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

'Walang iwanan?'

WALANG iwanan! Lusob! Sugurin ang Malacañang!

These infamous words came from the mouths of prominent political opposition leaders during the so-called "Edsa III" rally.

Untrue to their words, these politicos were nowhere in sight when the pro-Erap ralliers ran berserk and stormed Malacañang on May 1. These same leaders were either in their homes watching their "frontliners" on television, having a breakfast meeting at Greenhills, doing their leisure activities, etc. Indeed, *walang iwanan nga*!

The same politicos even denied involvement in the rampage, saying this was not organized by any opposition leader, that this was just a result of the crowd's "spontaneous agitation." How irresponsible these politicos are! *Parang pinagtabuyan na lang ang mga* pro-Erap ralliers! *Naghuhugas kamay pa at baka kasi mabilanggo ng gobyerno!*

A word of advice to all pro-Erap and opposition supporters, especially to the misguided *masa*: Wake up! Don't allow yourselves to be used by these genuine *trapos* for their own political ambitions! Where were they when you needed them most?!—**MICHAEL DANILO F. CUETO JR., Marikina City**

Clemente, tourism pillar, dies

CLEMENTE

TOURISM industry leader Jose S. Clemente Jr. (JoeClem) died after a massive stroke on Sunday, May 6, in San Francisco. His body will arrive from San Francisco on Sunday and will lie at the Christ the King Church in Green Meadows, Quezon City. Interment will be announced later.

JoeClem is an acknowledged forerunner of discipline in the tourism industry and co-author of the charter that created the Department of Tourism. He is partly credited with the setting up of operating guidelines for service excellence in hotels, travel agencies, tour and transport operators, as well as tour guides.

He held various positions in government agencies in tourism and conventions from 1965 to 1975, after which he moved into the private sector where he played a pivotal, dynamic role in the development and promotion of Philippine tourism.

A multi-awarded industry pioneer, he dedicated a lifetime to Philippine tourism, incessantly expressing his passionate dream for tourism to be the No. 1 catalyst of growth in Philippine economy.

Clemente was chairman of Rajah Tours Philippines, Rajah Tours International, Philippine Congress Organizing Center (PCOC), and President of Trans Inter Corp. and Subic International Hotel Corp.

Mr. Clemente is survived by his wife, Alejandra C. Clemente and children Jose III, Alexander, Marilen and Aileen.

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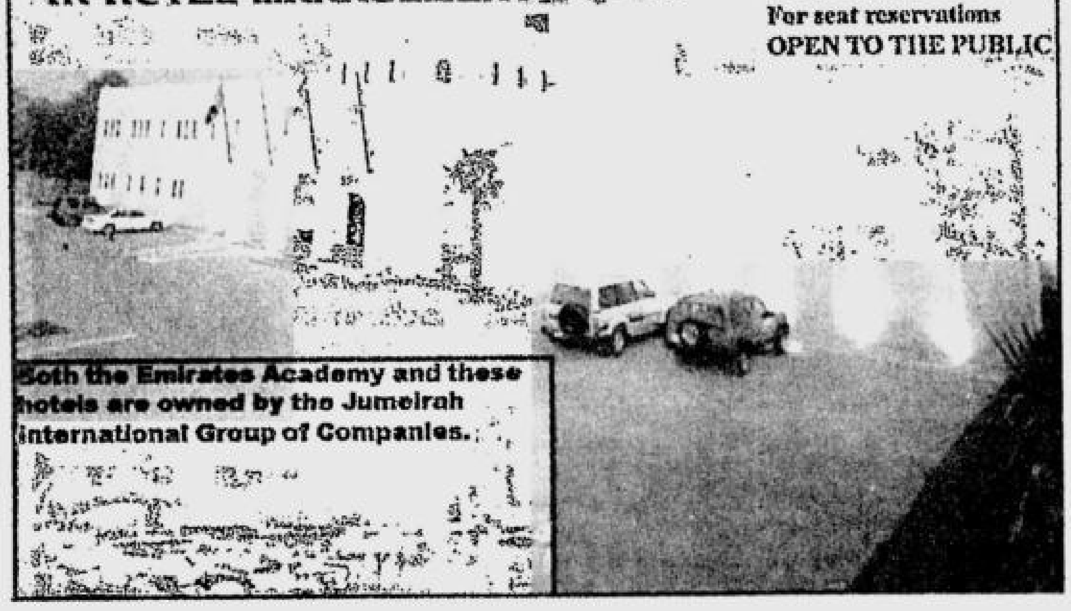

Both the Emirates Academy and these hotels are owned by the Jumeirah International Group of Companies.

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IS A VOTE FOR THE
FILIPINO PATRIOT

DAKILA KA PILIPINO!

PROGRAM OF GOVERNMENT

The VFP's program of government supports the empowerment of rural communities according to the principles of the Constitution in the following priority concerns:

A. POLITICAL
- Adoption of a decentralized system of government;
- Development of local human resources;
- Maximization of people's representation and participation in the development of communities;
- Institutionalization of the procedures on determining the most qualified to handle government positions; and
- Adoption of an independent foreign policy.

B. ECONOMIC
- Promotion of community-based small and medium enterprises;
- Modernization of agriculture and promotion of industrialization;
- Improvement of tax system;
- Maintenance of the stability of the domestic and foreign exehange values of the Philippine Pesos;
- Protection of labor rights;
- Development and implementation of mechanisms for community-based utilization of natural resources; and
- The VFP stands against all forms of monopoly.

C. SOCIAL
- *"Peoples Health is Nations Wealth"* - Provide professional medical care in the barangays;
- *"Freedom from Ignorance"*;
- *"Those Who Have Less In Life Must Have More In Law"*.

FILIPINO, TULARAN MO ANG BETERANO
*NAG-AALAY NG BUHAY PARA SA IYO
*PATULOY NA NAGLILINGKOD PARA SA KALAYAAN, KAPAYAPAAN AT KAUNLARAN MO

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
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- Military Campaign in Vietnam, Korea
- Peace and Order
- Anti-dissidence Campaign
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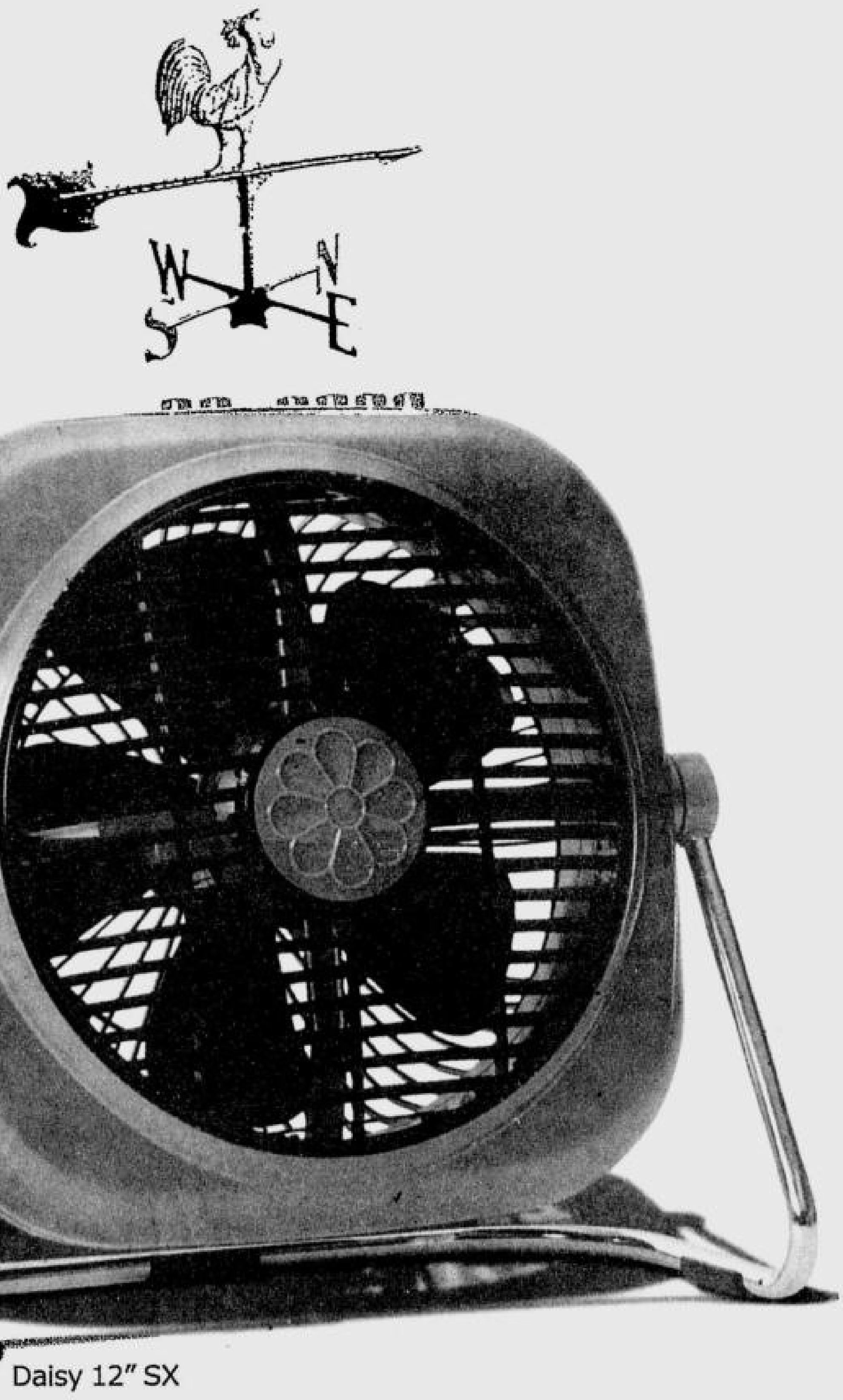

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SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM LAUNCHED

Archbishop of Cebu, his eminence Ricardo Cardinal J. Vidal received from Hon. Jovenal B. Toring, chairman of Indiana Aerospace University, Asia's biggest Catholic centered Aerospace University, the scholarship manifesto during the launching of Rufino Cardinal J. Vidal Scholarship Program for the poor and deserving high school graduates held at the St. Therese of Lisleux Church, the chapel of Indiana Aerospace University. The occasion also coincided with the graduation exercises of Indiana High School wherein the Cardinal was the main celebrant on a concelebrated mass attended by thousands of students and parents held at the 10-hectare campus of Indiana Town Center, Island of Mactan, Cebu.

Shown witnessing the said launching from left, Dr. Evangeline Longos, IAU Dean of Colleges; Mr. Harold E. Toring, President of IAU Foundation, Inc.. And Mdme. Cecilia E. Toring, IAU Treasurer. According to Dr. Toring, the scholarship program was unanimously approved by the IAU Board thru Board Resolution Number 04-2001 and only applicable to the following courses:

a) Bachelor of Science in Flying
b) Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering
c) Bachelor of Science in Aircraft Maintenance Technology
d) Bachelor of Science in Criminology, major in Aviation and Airport Security
e) Bachelor of Science in Hotel & Restaurant Management
f) Bachelor in Elementary Education
g) Bachelor in Secondary Education

Deserving high school graduates who wish to avail of the said scholarship program must apply personally for proper evaluation and screening by the IAU Admission Panel at the Registrar's Office, Magellan Business Park, Island of Mactan, Cebu, Philippines. Tel # 3400-771; Telefax 843-6671; E-mail: indiana@cebu.pw.net.ph

General warns Wahid vs closing parliament

JAKARTA—Indonesia's Army chief warned President Abdurrahman Wahid not to dissolve parliament as a way of preventing his impeachment, the official Antara news agency reported yesterday.

Wahid, however, immediately denied that he had any intention of dismissing the legislature.

Gen. Endriartono Sutarto, the Army's chief of staff, said any attempt by the embattled head of state to close down the legislature would only worsen Indonesia's ongoing political crisis.

"We strongly suggest that he does not do that," Sutarto was quoted by Antara as saying.

Media reports have claimed that Wahid threatened on Saturday to dissolve the assembly, impose martial law and call snap parliamentary elections.

Sutarto said the military had a duty to advise the president not to pursue a course of action that would be against the aspirations of the Indonesian people, Antara reported.

Sutarto has been sharply critical of Wahid in the past. Other military chiefs have not commented on the reports.

At the state palace, Wahid was asked by reporters whether he was planning to move against the assembly.

"No," Wahid replied. "This is just people gossiping. If you believe it, it is your own fault."

Pressure has mounted against Wahid since the parliament last week issued a stinging censure that accused him of graft and incompetence and opened the way for his impeachment.

Many lawmakers now want popular Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri, whose party is the largest in the legislature, to take over the presidency.

It was unclear whether a meeting of the leaders of parties in the parliament would go ahead on Friday as originally reported in the media.

Megawati leads the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle, the legislature's largest bloc, and was supposed to host the talks to discuss the crisis. However, Soetjipto, the party's secretary general, said a final decision on its timing and venue had not been made.

In a speech yesterday to a military think-tank, Wahid attacked legislators for trying to bring him down and accused them of not knowing the limits of their powers.

"Current wishes to put the parliament above the executive are something that must be fought against because it is against the Constitution," he said.

The Jakarta Post newspaper reported that a team of seven senior ministers was advising Wahid to strike a power-sharing deal with Megawati to avoid impeachment.

Suggestions that he surrender many of responsibilities has reportedly angered Wahid and caused friction within his Cabinet. The president has made it clear that while he is willing to compromise with Megawati, he does not want to be reduced to a figurehead.

WAHID

Last August, Wahid promised to hand over some responsibilities to Megawati. However, many critics complained that he has continued to ignore his deputy.

Megawati—the daughter of Indonesia's founding president, Sukarno—has not commented on the political crisis. However, some of her aides also have cast doubts on the effectiveness of a power-sharing deal with the unpredictable Wahid. *AP*

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Rebels vow to fight on until Macedonia engages in dialogue

NEAR SLUPCANE, Macedonia—Ethnic Albanian guerrillas vowed Tuesday there will be no end to their fight with Macedonian troops if they are excluded from political talks, and predicted a short lifespan for the newly-formed national unity government.

Leaders of the self-styled National Liberation Army (NLA), speaking as the Macedonian Army pounded their positions in villages near the northern city of Kumanovo, said they were ready for a truce but only if their seat at the negotiating table is reserved.

"If there's no political dialogue with the NLA, all attempts at political conciliation will be in vain," said Hysni Shaqiri, a former deputy in the main ethnic Albanian party, which is part of the ruling coalition.

"As soon as talks start, the war ends," deputy-turned-rebel Shaqiri said, as Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski set up a national unity coalition in Skopje to end the crisis.

The government announced it had formed a broad coalition of the two main Slav Macedonian parties and their two ethnic Albanian counterparts Tuesday after marathon talks.

"We are ready to declare a ceasefire if direct talks start between our political leaders and the president," said one NLA commander, calling himself Hoxha, whose men have been fighting the Army in northern villages since Thursday.

President Boris Trajkovski and the government have resolutely refused to talk to the NLA, which Skopje and most Western governments call a terrorist organization.

The rebels also want international mediation for the negotiations, another condition the government has ruled out.

Shaqiri said Trajkovski was trying to form a broad coalition "to spread responsibility for massacres, past or future, between all the parties."

The NLA rebellion, which started in February, has raised fears that Macedonia could be the next Balkans state go up in flames as ethnic tensions skyrocket and the government struggles to contain the violence.

Commander Sokoli, head of the rebel-held zone just a half-hour's drive from the capital, said the newly-minted government would not last long because it has failed to "attack the heart of the problem."

"We are not calling for a change of borders but a change of the Constitution," said Shaqiri.

The rebels, and indeed mainstream ethnic Albanian politicians, want the preamble of the Constitution changed to upgrade their status from minority to partner nation with the Macedonian Slav majority.

The government has said the move is a ploy to open the door to federalization and secession, seeing it as a bid to carve up the country along ethnic lines.

"That's disinformation, said Commander Hoxha, adding that their fight was solely for Slavs and ethnic Albanian to have equal rights.

But their armed struggle to change the foreword to the document has made them few friends, with the British ambassador to Skopje last week calling their fixation on the Constitution "Leninist."

The Albanians say they make up a third of the population of two million, while the authorities, basing their figures on a 1994 census, say it is around a quarter.

As they talk, Commander Sokoli dismantles a sniper rifle, then reassembles the weapon. Other guerrillas use the lull in the five-day Army bombardment to clean their guns, chat or have a nap. *AFP*

Humans able to land in Mars by 2020–Nasa

WASHINGTON—A human space explorer will be able to fly to Mars no later than the year 2020 and visit other planets of the Solar system in the following decades, the top US space official announced yesterday.

In an address reminiscent of late US president John Kennedy's 1962 speech announcing a mission to the Moon before the end of that decade, National Aeronautics and Space Agency Administrator Daniel Goldin said the United States would be able to send a man to Mars in no more that two decades.

"In no less than 10—and if we decide to do it, it could be done in 10—and certainly no more than 20 years we'll start writing history again and not looking back but looking forward," Goldin told a rapt audience at George Washington University here

The announcement came as Nasa's 2001 Mars Odyssey spacecraft hurtled toward the Red Planet at the speed of more than 30 km per second in a bid to scan the surface of Mars for signs of underground water.

Before the year 2011, the United States planned to send a landing craft to Mars and collect samples of its surface, according to the Nasa chief.

"Let's burn it into our brains that in our lifetimes, we will extend the reach of this human species onto other planets and to other bodies in our solar system, and build the robots that will leave our solar system to go to other stars, then ultimately to be followed by people," Goldin said. *AFP*

POPE John Paul II listens to speeches during a welcoming ceremony at the Malta International Airport May 8, the last leg of his pilgrimage. The Pontiff celebrates his 81st birthday later this month. REUTERS

Pope to beatify 3 Maltese Catholics

FLORIANA, Malta—Pope John Paul II will beatify three revered Maltese Catholics, including a nun and a priest, at an open-air Mass outside the Maltese capital Valletta Wednesday on the final day of his historic pilgrimage.

The ceremony at the Granaries, a large square dominated by the 18th-century church of Saint Publius—originally used for the storage of grain—comes almost 11 years after the Pontiff celebrated Mass there during his first visit to this deeply Catholic Mediterranean island.

The beatifications are seen by the Vatican as the highlight of this year's visit which comes at the end of the Pontiff's ground-breaking three-country tour to places where Saint Paul, known as the greatest missionary of the early Christian church, stopped before his execution in Rome.

In Orthodox Greece and Muslim Syria the Pontiff made moves toward religious reconciliation between Christians, Jews and Muslims and in Damascus he also made history as the first Pope to enter a Muslim place of worship.

After their beatification Wednesday the three religious worthies who lived in the 19th and 20th century will be just one step away from sainthood.

Maltese priest George Preca, one of the three, is affectionately known here as "Dun Gorg." He founded a society for the promotion of Christianity, the Society of Christian Doctrine, in 1907. The Vatican last year declared that a cure performed in his name was miraculous.

Preca was declared venerable, a title given to people who have reached a first degree of sanctity, on June 28, 1999, nearly 37 years after his death.

John Paul II will also visit his tomb at the society church in Hamrun, on the outskirts of Valletta.

The main priority of Preca's Society of Christian Doctrine is catechetical work in parishes and preparing children for Holy Communion. It is composed of male and female lay members who must be single.

The two others to be beatified are Benedictine nun Maria Adeodata Pisani, the daughter of a Maltese baron and an Italian from Naples, and Nazju Falzon, who graduated with a degree in theology but would not be ordained a priest.

Falzon is best known in Maltese religious circles for teaching catechism among British servicemen at a time when Malta was annexed to the British Crown.

He first gathered sailors and soldiers at his home but later moved to the Jesuits church in Valletta.

The Pope's three-country tour, his 93rd overseas since his election in 1978, was designed as a pilgrimage along the path taken by the Apostle Paul before he converted to Christianity. *AFP*

US diplomats ponder nation's debacle at UN

UNITED NATIONS—Stung by a double blow to its UN stature, US diplomats past and present are trying to explain what went wrong for the United States in crucial votes last week that left them off important international panels for the first time.

Although the United States believed it had the support going into a series of votes Thursday at the United Nations, it lost seats it has held for years on the UN Human Rights Commission and the International Narcotics Control Board.

"A lot of these votes come from countries that aren't friendly to us, a lot of it comes because the Europeans now vote as a group for themselves and we need an ambassador here who can take charge of things," former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said.

The lack of a permanent US ambassador has been suggested by some diplomats as a reason why US lobbying efforts to retain its spots may have failed.

Others have pointed to frustration over international issues such as President George W. Bush's decision to pull out of the 1997 Kyoto treaty to curb global warming and his intention to build a new missile defense system, sounding the death knell of the 1972 treaty on missile defense, regarded by many countries as the basis for nuclear arms stability.

That came on top of the Clinton administration's rejection of the treaty to ban land mines, the US Senate's 1999 refusal to ratify the nuclear test ban treaty and more recent coolness toward the creation of an international criminal court.

Acting US Ambassador James Cunningham would not address those suggestions Tuesday.

Instead, he reiterated US disappointment over the voting and said that America would "pursue our efforts in the UN system and outside on human rights and on combating drugs and we will do that through all the instruments at our disposal."

Bangladesh Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury, whose country is on the Security Council, said one of the messages from the vote is that the United States should make a greater effort "to be an international player where views of other nations count."

"It is necessary that they engage themselves more effectively and reasonably to the international efforts. After all we are in it together," he said.

While differences over human rights issues may have been on the minds of some who voted against the United States' seat on the Human Rights Commission last week, one Western diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that the United States has few disagreements with the international community regarding UN drug policies. *AP*

2 Israeli boys stabbed to death near Bethlehem

JERUSALEM—The bodies of two 14-year-old Israeli boys who had been stabbed to death were discovered early yesterday near the Teqoa West Bank settlement east of Bethlehem, military sources said.

The victims, who were not identified, both lived in Teqoa. They had been reported missing late Tuesday, after leaving home for a walk without telling their parents.

The Israeli Army carried out a search and found the bodies in a riverside cave in the morning, the sources said.

They had apparently been stoned before being stabbed.

Avigdor Lieberman, the extreme-right Israeli minister of national infrastructure, denounced what he called a crime "committed by a group of cannibals.

"When Israel kills innocent Palestinians, it is the result of an error, but for the Palestinians, murdering innocents is policy," Lieberman said on military radio.

The body of another Israeli settler, who had been shot and stabbed, was found near the settlement of Itamar, south of Nablus, in the West Bank on Tuesday.

The deaths bring the overall toll to 518 from the fighting in Israel and the Palestinian territories since late September, when the Palestinian intifada, or uprising, began.

The vast majority of those killed have been Palestinians.

Meanwhile, two Palestinian mortar bombs hit the Jewish settlement of Nissanit, in the northern Gaza Strip yesterday, without causing any casualties or damage.

And a bomb exploded near the Gaza Strip border with Egypt as an Israeli military patrol passed by, again causing no casualties. *AFP*

EXPERTS' SCENARIO

1 billion Asians face future without water

HONOLULU—A billion Asians risk being stranded high and dry as the global supply of fresh water recedes amid urbanization, a growing population and cross-border supply conflicts, experts said here.

Even "relatively privileged" countries such as the United States and Canada" are not going to be trouble-free over the next 50 years, said Harvard University environmental engineering professor Peter Rogers.

"International conflicts over water are likely to consume more and more of our time," he told an international symposium on the sidelines of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) annual meeting in Hawaii.

Rogers said the World Trade Organization "is likely to infringe more and more upon sovereign powers of nations' regulation of water quality, stoking trade wars and other conflicts."

The supply crunch could also revive old—and introduce new—water-borne diseases and lead to micro-pollutants from pharmaceuticals such as synthetic hormones getting through existing treatment facilities, he added.

Ainun Nishat, Bangladesh's country representative to the World Conservation Union (IUCN), said: "If all the earth's water fit in a gallon jug, available fresh water would equal just over a tablespoon—about three-fourth of one percent of the total," he told the symposium.

The earth has virtually this same amount today as it did when dinosaurs roamed the planet," Nishat said.

Peter Gleick, of the Oakland, California-based Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment and Security, said "nearly three billion people live without access to adequate sanitation systems necessary to reduce exposure to water-related diseases."

The 21st century dawned with "more than a billion people in the developing world lacking safe drinking water," he added.

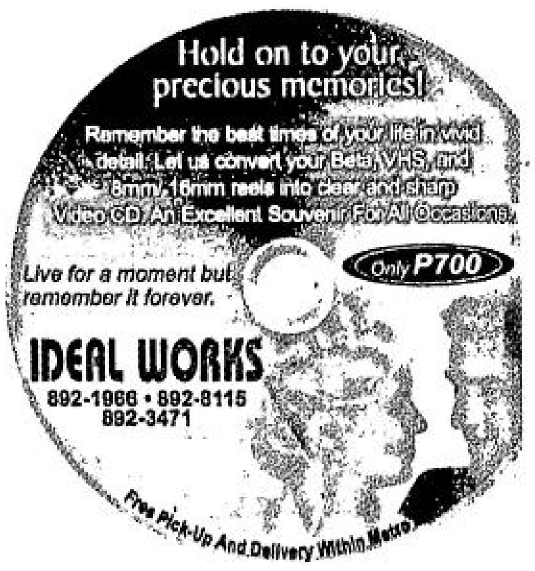
Rogers said most countries now have regulations "to maintain sustainable flows of higher quality," but wondered whether these could withstand possible pressure amid an economic backlash.

"One-third of the world's population is living in countries experiencing medium water stress," Rogers said.

"Asia has the lowest per capita availability of water, and by the year 2025 nearly one billion people in Asia will not have adequate access to water."

He said the explosion of urban populations as well as migration in the developing world would more than double the 1.7 billion people now poorly supplied with water and sanitation services.

In the next half century the global population should grow until it stabilizes at around 9.3 billion, Rogers said. *AFP*



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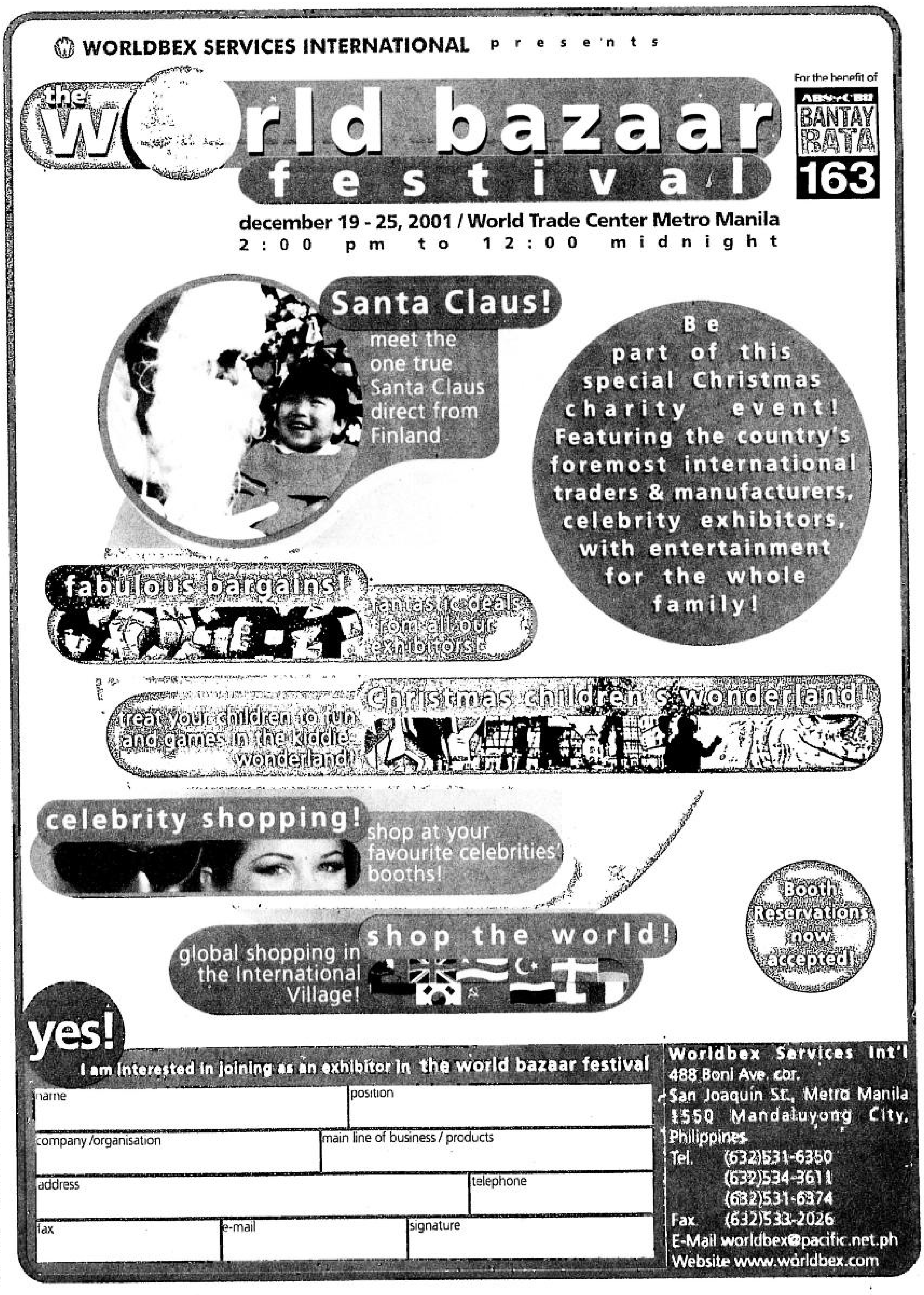

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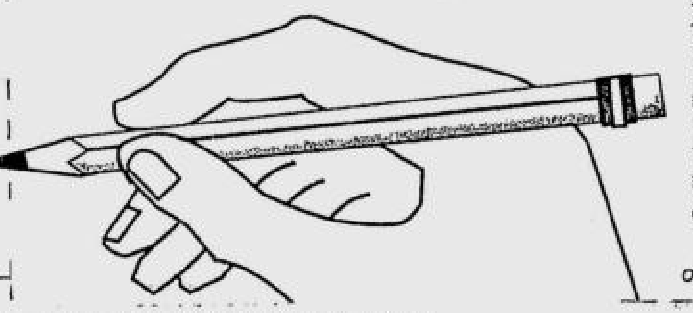

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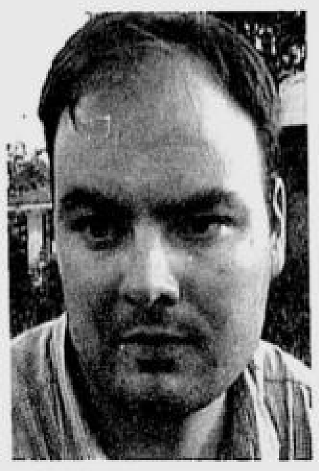
Army officer accuses Australia of failing to stop Timor massacre

SYDNEY—An Australian Army intelligence officer has accused the government of failing to act on warnings that could have prevented one of the worst massacres by East Timor militias in 1999.

Captain Andrew Plunkett also claimed the government hushed up evidence of atrocities by the Indonesian military and its militia allies and that Australian soldiers were ordered to understate the death toll.



PLUNKETT

He told the Sydney Morning Herald and SBS television yesterday that Canberra failed to act on intelligence, which could have prevented the massacre of 47 civilians at a police station in Maliana on Sept. 8, 1999.

His claims were backed by former Australian Federal Police officer Wayne Sievers, who served in East Timor in the lead-up to its self-rule ballot in late August.

Plunkett, 31, was a member of the elite 3rd Royal Australian Regiment parachute battalion which spearheaded the UN-backed Interfet force sent to East Timor after the militia went on a murderous rampage in then Indonesian territory.

He said Australian sources had accurately reported on Indonesian plans to kill independence supporters in Maliana.

But their reports were "pushed up the chain of command, hosed down and politically wordsmithed by the Asia division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade," he alleged.

Plunkett, now on convalescent leave for post traumatic stress following his Timor mission, said the information was "held" at the department instead of being passed to UN observers who could have warned the population.

Survivors later told investigators the area was surrounded by militia, with Indonesian police and soldiers forming an outer ring.

The militia then moved in and hacked to death 47 independence supporters with machetes and 12 others who escaped were caught and slaughtered by the military.

Australian troops were later ordered to minimize the estimated numbers of deaths and "go soft on body disposal by the TNI (Indonesian Army)," Plunkett said.

Similar allegations have been made in the past, but Plunkett is the first serving Australian intelligence officer to make them. He risks prosecution for breaching military discipline to publicize his claims to the media without authority, but said he wanted the truth told.

Sievers told ABC radio he had warned of a worsening situation in Maliana but his messages failed to get through.

"What people in the field were saying by the time we were reporting it was politically inconvenient for the government," he added. "So it had to be doctored and hosed down, yes."

Canberra has repeatedly said it received a mass of often conflicting information at the time and did all it could to prevent the violence.

A spokesperson for Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said: "It is quite outrageous to suggest that the Australian government would deliberately withhold information to prevent the loss of life and we absolutely reject any notion that is what we did.

"We would also make the point we did everything we could to ensure effective security for the holding of the ballot.

"That included direct representations to the Indonesians including by our prime minister to upgrade the number of civilian police, urging the UN to ensure that its departing officials were replaced by increased civilian police." *AFP*

3 Russians, 28 rebels killed in fierce battle in Chechnya

MOSCOW—Three Russian servicemen and 28 separatist rebels were killed during clashes in Chechnya's third largest city Argun, the bloodiest fighting in months, according to a new Russian toll quoted Tuesday by Russian news agencies.

Six of the rebels were killed in one building in Argun and 22 others in a suburb of the city, according to the same source.

"The special operation by federal forces against the rebels went well," said the deputy Russian chief of staff Yury Baluyievsky, cited by Interfax.

Nine Russian troops were wounded, and around 20 rebels arrested, in Monday's shoot-out, one of the fiercest gun battles seen in the war-torn republic since the end of last year, the interior ministry told Itar-Tass.

Fighting broke out after Russian forces launched a "special operation to liquidate" two rebel groups consisting of around 50 rebels holed up in the city, 15 km east of the capital Grozny.

"The rebels were seeking to take back Grozny, Gudermes and Argun," the three main cities in Chechnya, Interfax quoted Nikolai Britvin, the Russian president's deputy representative in the troubled southern region, as saying.

"The extremists refused to surrender, and an armed clash began," a spokesperson at the Russian Army's Khankala headquarters told Itar-Tass.

An earlier Russian toll had put federal losses at only two, while the Chechen rebel leadership claimed that "dozens" of Russian soldiers had been killed in the fighting.

Federal Security Service (FSB, ex-KGB) spokesperson Alexander Zdanovich denied information that a Russian military convoy had come under attack in Argun, forcing the Army to cordon off the city for nearly all Monday.

Meanwhile, other clashes in Oktyabrskoye, west of Grozny, claimed a dozen lives among rebel ranks, according to Russian agencies.

The two sides' estimates of casualties have varied, often extravagantly, since Russia launched its self-styled "anti-terrorist" clampdown in Chechnya on Oct. 1, 1999.

But the latest fighting marked "a new stage in the war," the Russian daily Kommersant reported Tuesday, confirming federal fears of a rebel spring offensive threatened by Chechen separatist president Aslan Maskhadov. *AFP*

14-year-old US boy relates how he shot his teacher

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida—A 14-year-old boy charged with murder in the shooting death of his English teacher calmly described Tuesday how he had confronted the man with a handgun after being sent home for throwing water balloons at another student.

BRAZILL

"I don't think he knew it was real. He had a smile on his face, like he wasn't taking me seriously," Nathaniel Brazill said of the teacher, Barry Grunow.

Brazill, who is being tried as an adult, could spend the rest of his life in prison if convicted of first-degree murder in the May 26 shooting death of Grunow at Lake Worth Middle School in the southeastern state of Florida.

Prosecutors say the teenager, then 13, returned to the school intending to kill Grunow because the teacher planned to give him a failing grade.

Defense attorney Robert Udell called Brazill to the witness stand Tuesday, hoping to portray him as an average 13-year-old boy who made a deadly mistake. The boy's lawyers had decided just Monday to allow him to testify.

Brazill, dressed in a black sweater and tie, appeared calm and controlled, carefully answering Udell's questions concerning events that led to the shooting.

The drama unfolded on the last day of school, when Nathaniel was caught throwing balloons filled with water inside the school. As punishment, he was sent home but returned two hours later armed with a .25-caliber handgun that he had been hiding.

He headed straight for Grunow's classroom to say goodbye to two girlfriends. Although the teacher did not give him permission to enter, Brazill walked into the room and pumped a bullet into Grunow's head.

"Here's the big question," Udell asked Brazill after about an hour of questioning. "What made you think that pointing a gun at your teacher would be a good idea?"

"If you have a million dollars, and I point a gun at you, you'll give me the million dollars," Brazill responded.

He said his vision was blurry and he wasn't thinking clearly, because he was "sad" and "mad" at himself.

Prosecutors will question Brazill on Wednesday.

Brazill is the third Florida boy aged 14 or younger to face life in prison in recent months.

Lionel Tate and Tronneal Mangum both have received life sentences in adult prisons, although Tate has since been transferred to a juvenile facility. *AFP*

In two days, the truth in political campaigns unveils.

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TWO former comfort women join a rally near the Japanese Embassy in Seoul May 9 protesting a controversial middle school textbook of Japan. REUTERS

'DISTORTION OF HISTORY'

S. Korean solons take legal action over Japan textbooks

SEOUL—Four South Korean legislators left for Japan yesterday to launch a legal battle against school textbooks that critics say whitewash Tokyo's wartime atrocities.

The four plan to seek an injunction from a Tokyo court to ban the publication and sale of eight controversial textbooks approved in April. The books will be offered for use at junior high schools beginning in 2002.

"The legal action will show how seriously our people view the textbook issue," Ham Sung-hee, a member from the ruling Millennium Democratic Party, said, representing the group.

Other members include Song Young-gil, also from the ruling party, Kim Won-woong from the main, opposition Grand National Party and Bae Gi-sun from the ruling coalition party, the United Liberal Democrats.

The trip comes a day after the South Korean government officially asked Japan to revise 35 controversial passages in the eight textbooks, including 25 in one book written by nationalist scholars.

As part of its protest campaign, the Seoul government also called off a scheduled joint naval exercise with Japan in June. The drill was to have been the second since 1999.

Japan has already voiced objection to the South Korean demand, saying that revision is impossible unless there are clear mistakes in the brooks.

The texts have drawn sharp criticism from South Korea, China and other Asian countries which suffered under Japan's militaristic expansion in the first half of the 20th century.

Anger is particularly strong in South Korea. The Korean Peninsula was under Japanese colonial rule from 1910-1945. During that period, Koreans were forced to adopt Japanese names and banned from using their own language in schools.

The controversial books reportedly call Japan's takeover of South Korea and invasions of other Asian countries an "advance" and fail to mention many atrocities, including the use of hundreds of thousands of Korean and other Asian women as prostitutes for Japan's World War II soldiers. *AP*

Japan may allow return of empresses

TOKYO—After centuries of rule by men, tradition-bound Japan may finally allow an empress to ascend the Chrysanthemum Throne as it confronts a lack of male offspring in the imperial line.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will soon start debating a drastic change to the Imperial Household Law to allow a female accession, the Yomiuri Shimbun reported yesterday.

"Behind the discussions on a revision is believed to be the widening debate on the royal succession following last month's announcement that Princess Masako was showing signs of pregnancy," the paper said.

Crown Princess Masako, 37, is the wife of the heir to the throne, 41-year-old Crown Prince Naruhito. The Imperial Household Agency announced on April 16 that she was showing "signs of pregnancy."

If the princess were to have a boy, he would be second in line to the throne behind his father, jumping ahead of Prince Naruhito's younger brother Prince Akishino, 35.

But if the baby were a girl, she would not stand in line to the throne at all under the law banning a female succession.

Prince Akishino, the last male born in the imperial family, has two daughters but no heir.

The LDP would also consider changing the law to allow the emperor to abdicate of his own will, which at present is forbidden, the Yomiuri Shimbun said.

Asked for a comment on the report, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said he personally had no objection to an empress ruling Japan.

"I have not heard how (the LDP) would consider it," the new leader told reporters, according to Jiji Press news agency.

"It is a task to be considered in the future. I personally think an empress would be fine, but I want (the party) to study it fully because this is a big issue," Koizumi said.

While stripped of his god-like status after World War II, the emperor still inspires profound respect in many Japanese and anything to do with the royal family generates intense interest.

Princess Masako suffered a miscarriage in 1999 after a media frenzy over an earlier pregnancy.

The royal household has remained silent since its vague announcement last month on whether she is truly pregnant again. *AFP*

Contraceptive patch as good as The Pill, says research

CHICAGO—The world's first contraceptive patch—now awaiting US government approval—is as safe and effective as the pill, and easier to remember to use, research suggests.

A study on the patch appears in yesterday's Journal of the American Medical Association and was included in the manufacturer's application for Food and Drug Administration approval in December. The manufacturer paid for the study.

The government review of the patch, made by Johnson & Johnson's Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical Inc., is expected to take a year. The company also has applied for approval in Europe.

The adhesive hormone patch is about the size of a matchbook. It delivers continuous low levels of estrogen and progestin, designed, like birth control pills, to prevent ovulation. It can be worn on the abdomen or buttocks.

Three patches, each worn for a week, are used during a menstrual cycle. The user has her period in the fourth week.

The study suggests the Ortho Evra patch will offer "the promise of another safe and effective form of reversible contraception," said Dr. Paul Blumenthal, a Johns Hopkins University researcher and medical adviser to Planned Parenthood who was not involved in the research.

The study compared results from 812 women wearing the patch versus 605 on Wyeth-Ayerst's Triphasil birth control pills for at least six cycles.

Five patch women got pregnant, compared with seven on the pill. But the difference was not considered statistically significant.

The percentage of cycles in which there was perfect compliance, meaning the method was used as directed, was nearly 90 percent in the patch women and nearly 80 percent in the pill women. *AP*

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

Soldier slain in ambush

COTABATO CITY—A soldier was killed in an ambush by suspected Moro rebels in Datu Piang, Maguindanao, Thursday. Maj. Julieto Ando, local Army spokesperson, said Pfc. Rex Sorupia of the Army's 37th Infantry Battalion was driving his motorcycle to the battalion headquarters when two men on board another motorcycle shot him twice. He died while being treated at a military hospital in Awang, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Free medicine for OFWs

COTABATO CITY—The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) last week launched a medical outreach program for overseas workers and their dependents as it celebrates its 19th Anniversary. Abdulgani Omag, OWWA administrator for Central Mindanao, said the program was held in coordination with the Rotary Club of Cotabato and local chapter of the Philippine Medical Association. Omag said overseas workers only needed to show their passports to avail of free medicines and other medical services. "It is just but proper to look after the health needs of our overseas workers, who have labored to help strengthen our dollar reserves," he said.

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

New Currimao mayor

CURRIMAO, Ilocos Norte—Vice Mayor Josephine Lazo was sworn in as new mayor last week following the death of the patriarch of one of the longest-running political clans here. Incumbent Mayor Ernesto Go, 70, died of cardiac arrest on April 29 as a result of a long bout with diabetes. His wife, Rosario Go, has joined the mayoral race under the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan to face former Mayor Cirilo Quilala, the Gos' old political rival.

Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Aquaculture program

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—More than 80 fishermen from the Cordillera gathered here last week to discuss how the region could develop its aquaculture to ease communal bodies of water from exploitation. The two-day Fisheries Technology Caravan 2001 here was a touring livelihood conference of the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) with the help of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (Seafdec) and the Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development (PCAMRD). Fishery experts said they want to help Cordillera fishermen use practical and cheap fisheries technology that would not damage the environment.

Cesar Marquez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Bolinao a peaceful town

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Reelectionist Mayor Jesus Celeste of Bolinao has questioned the classification of his town as an "area of immediate concern" by the regional police, saying there are no armed groups in his "peaceful town." Celeste, who is running for his last term under the Lakas-NUCD, said the police should have investigated first the allegations by a candidate. Bolinao and three other towns were identified by Senior Supt. Arturo Lomibao, police director for Ilocos region, as "areas of immediate concern" for the May 14 elections.

Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

'Butanding' watchers triple

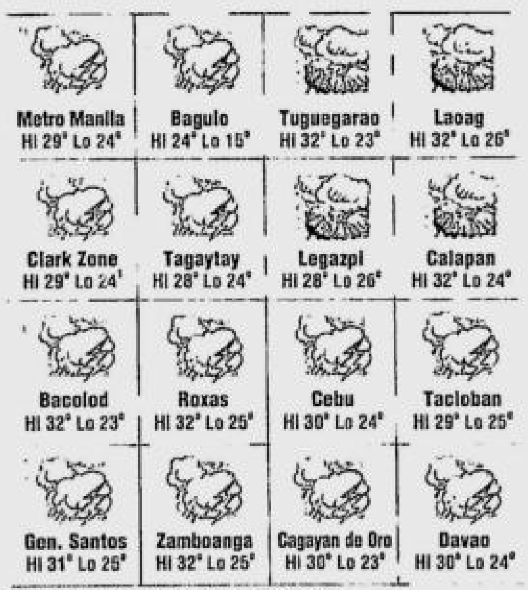
DONSOL, Sorsogon—Whale shark watchers have almost tripled in number this year compared to the past years, Department of Tourism (DOT) Bicol regional director Maria Ravanilla said. Tourists flood the area as local officials reported that more than 40 whale sharks were there to play with tourists. The presence of the friendly and gentle whale sharks along the shorelines of Donsol has become an attraction worldwide, said Ravanilla. Whale sharks have also been sighted in the waters of Pilar, Castilla and Magallanes, in Sorsogon and Pioduran and Legazpi City in Albay. Donsol has been declared by the DOT as the official sanctuary of the world's biggest fish.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Luzon.

SOURCE: PAGASA



Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

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Gloria urged to make true vow to give husband's land

BACOLOD CITY—A farmers' group in Negros Occidental urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to fulfill her promise to place her husband's agricultural land in the province under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

The Task Force Mapalad in a statement said they were urging the President to fast track the distribution of the farmlands to at least 440 potential beneficiaries.

"Certificates of Land Ownership Awards (CLOAs) would be the best gift that (Ms Macapagal) could give to the hundreds of farmer-beneficiaries of the Arroyo lands on the 13th anniversary of the CARP this June," said Gregorio Paclibar, Task Force Mapalad president in Negros Occidental.

The task force is a federation of 4,493 farmers and farm workers in Negros Occidental.

Ms Macapagal announced on May 4 in Malacañang that she would give away to the farmers the vast sugarland owned by her spouse Mike Arroyo and his family in Negros Occidental.

Mr. Arroyo, in a phone interview, said they would fast track the process of placing her husband's property under CARP as part of their contribution to uplift the lives of landless farmers.

Paclibar added that the President's property in Iligan would also be offered for CARP.

"We are more than happy to help this government," he said. "We want to be living examples of those who are willing to give away their own."

Ignacio Arroyo, Mike's brother, said the Arroyo property being offered for CARP coverage is in Binalbagan and Isabela towns.

The Task Force Mapalad said based on the Department of Agrarian Reform records, Mr. Arroyo and his family own six haciendas in the province's four towns—Binalbagan, La Castellana, Hinigaran and Isabela.

Close to 900 farmers are working in the Arroyo property that covers a total land area of 1,045 hectares, all planted to sugarcane, the task force said.

Only the 350-hectare Hacienda Camangcamang in Isabela, owned by Mr. Arroyo's father, Ignacio, had been distributed to 300 of the 437 farmer-beneficiaries in 1997.

The farmers' group said there are still some 695 hectares of land under the name of Mr. Arroyo and his family that have not been distributed.

These include the 239-hectare Hacienda Manolita and the 157-hectare in Binalbagan, which are owned by Mike. The two pieces of property have about 240 potential farmer-beneficiaries, the task force said.

Pedro Arroyo, uncle of Mr. Arroyo, owns the 139-hectare Hacienda Olimbo in Hinigaran, which has more than 60 potential beneficiaries.

Another uncle, Antonio, is the owner of the Hacienda Alipien (60 hectares) and the Hacienda Grande (100 hectares) both in La Castellana. The two haciendas have more than 140 potential beneficiaries.

In the same statement, the beneficiaries of the Arroyo farms also urged the President to provide them sufficient support services, aside from distributing the land titles, to make her "gift . . . complete and more lasting."

The affected farmers said installing them in the property would not benefit them if the government would not provide financial assistance to make the land productive.

"We don't want to experience the same dilemma of other farmers who were awarded land by the past administration but were later forced to either sell or put their landholding under *ariendo* (rented by other landlords) for lack of government support," said Napoleon Canto, a farm worker of Hacienda Olimbo.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Pro-Erap leaders in Davao sued for sedition

DAVAO CITY—Police here filed sedition charges against three persons who led a six-day rally of forces loyal to ousted President Joseph Estrada.

But supporters of Estrada denounced the filing of the charges, filed by the police before the City Prosecutor's Office (CPO) Friday, as part of the government's effort to quell their grievances and scare people from publicly expressing their protest against the arrest of Estrada.

Senior Supt. Wilfredo Garcia, city police chief, said police have gathered strong evidence and have witnesses that warrant the filing of sedition charges against Richard Burgos, Andrea Montessa and Vidal Payao who led the pro-Estrada rally at the Rizal Park from April 26 to May 1.

Garcia said police intelligence operatives gathered video footage proving that the three indeed incited the crowd to topple the government and re-install Estrada to power.

Garcia also said aside from video footage, some of the participants in the rally have also cooperated and agreed with the police to testify before the court against their leaders.

"We believe that we have strong evidence that would convict the three," Garcia said.

The charges, however, are bailable and carry a penalty of *reclusion temporal* or an imprisonment of a minimum of 12 years and a day to 20 years, according to the CPO.

The protesters, a number of whom were brought in from the nearby provinces of Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte and the outskirts of the city, dispersed peacefully after the government quelled the Labor Day assault on Malacañang staged by forces loyal to Estrada.

Those facing sedition charges, however, remain free since the city prosecutors' office has not yet ruled on the charges.

Calixto Esparagosa, city chief prosecutor here, said the cases will be raffled off on Friday adding that they may not be able to evaluate the case until after two weeks.

The government prosecutors here have been deputized by the Commission on Elections to serve as members of the board of canvassers for the May 14 elections.

But Richard Welborn, convenor of the pro-Estrada Tingog Kabataang Mindanao and one of the leaders of the rallies, said the charges send a chilling effect on the civil liberties and the people's constitutional right to freedom of expression.

"The poor people who joined the Rizal Park rally were merely expressing their views, criticisms and grievances (against) the government. Is it wrong to denounce the government for arresting President Estrada?" Welborn said.

Welborn said the filing of the charges was a "blatant form of harassment" and part of an attempt to discourage the poor from joining future rallies critical of the Macapagal administration.

Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Ex-mayor, daughter ordered disqualified by Comelec

CABANATUAN CITY—A father and his daughter, who are both running for the mayoral seat of a southern Nueva Ecija town, have been disqualified by the Commission on Elections from running in the May 14 elections.

They are former San Isidro Mayor Nestor Magno of the Lakas-NUCD and his daughter Khristine (Independent).

Their disqualification stemmed from a petition filed by a certain Carlos Montes, a resident of Barangay Poblacion in San Isidro against the Magnos.

Montes asked the Comelec to disqualify Khristine, noting that she had no letter of authority to file her certificate of candidacy. Khristine was reportedly out of the country when her certificate of candidacy was filed.

In the petition for the former mayor's disqualification, Montes said Magno was convicted by the Sandiganbayan on four counts of direct bribery in 1995 and was sentenced to six years in prison. He was also disqualified from holding public office for six years, Montes said.

In his reply to the petition, Magno, who was a two-term mayor of San Isidro, said his conviction does not involve "moral turpitude."

He claimed that his disqualification has been removed after he was put on probation.

Magno said the municipal circuit trial court ordered last February his inclusion in the list of voters of San Isidro and the reactivation of his voter's registration records.

But the Comelec's second division, in its resolution, ruled that direct bribery was indeed a crime involving moral turpitude.

It also said the disqualification to run for an elective office of persons convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude is lifted only after five years from the service of the sentence.

The disqualification of the Magnos left reelectionist Mayor Sonia Lorenzo (Bagong Lakas ng Nueva Ecija) and former Vice Mayor Rogelio Dazo (Independent) as rivals for the mayoral post.

Reports received by the INQUIRER said Magno has appealed to the poll body.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Tarlac deputy cop chief slain

CONCEPCION, Tarlac—The deputy chief of police here was shot dead on Wednesday morning by two men while he was tending to his hardware store in Barangay San Jose here.

Insp. Cesar Mangune, 46, died from four bullet wounds in the body. Recovered from the crime scene were four slugs of .45 cal. pistol bullets.

The killing came two days after unidentified men fired at the houses of two mayoral candidates in Sta. Ignacia town.

Mangune, who was formerly assigned to the provincial police headquarters in Camp Makabulos in Tarlac City, had been in his new post here for only less than a month.

He was the former chief of the provincial police's Task Force Ligtas Daan.

Investigators ruled out robbery as nothing was taken from Mangune's hardware.

In Sta. Ignacia, the house of People Power Coalition mayoral candidate Noel Antonio was fired upon by a lone gunman on Monday, police said.

A motorcycle-riding man, police said, fired five times at the front door and gate of Antonio's house.

Earlier, Sta. Ignacia Mayor Reynaldo Modomo's house was also fired upon by a passenger of a tricycle.

In both incidents, no one was reported hurt, police said.

In Bulacan, the municipal treasurer of Angat town escaped unhurt when armed men strafed her house in Norzagaray on Wednesday. *Russell Arador and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Mayor ordered nabbed for gun attack on house of poll rival

BY NESTOR BURGOS JR.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The Fourth Municipal Circuit Trial Court of Iloilo on Tuesday ordered the arrest of Mayor Peter Paul Lopez of San Dionisio town for the gun attack on the house of a mayoral candidate on May 4.

Lopez, a last-term mayor and vice mayoral candidate of the Partido ng Masang Pilipino, posted a P120,000 bail after MCTC Judge Mateo Baldoza issued the arrest warrant.

He, along with six other unidentified suspects, face a charge of multiple frustrated murder with physical injuries and damage to property.

They were accused of firing at the house of Pio Villanueva, mayoral candidate of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-conscience bloc, in Barangay Bagacay about 10:30 p.m. last Friday.

Villanueva and runningmate Ernesto Canong, who were inside the house, were not hurt.

Dan Villanueva, 17, and a nephew of Pio; Ricky Guion, 28, a nephew of Canong; and Renato Malones suffered minor injuries mostly in the legs, police said.

The five identified Lopez as among those who fired at the house. They also claimed that Lopez owns one of the two pick-ups used by the suspects.

In an interview with radio station dyOK in Iloilo, Lopez claimed he was the one who was ambushed, claiming that one of his companions in his pick-up was wounded.

Lopez said he could not be reached earlier by the media because he was "scared." "It's up to the police to find the truth behind the accusations," he added.

Lawyer Loreto Jagnaan, Lopez's counsel, said his clients have "proof that the opposite of what has been reported has happened."

Lopez had defeated Villanueva in the 1998 elections. Barred by the Constitution from seeking a fourth term, Lopez fielded his wife, Saliha, against Villanueva, Viola Bañaria (Reporma) and Pedro Jacomina (Lakas-NUCD).

The third contender for vice mayor is Remegio Alkonga (Lakas-NUCD).

Additional government troops have been sent to San Dionisio to reinforce the 21-member local police force to hunt the suspects and to ensure peaceful elections on May 14.

Supt. Victor Boco, Iloilo provincial police director, said 20 policemen and 15 soldiers were sent to San Dionisio, 111 kilometers north of here.

San Dionisio is one of the 33 towns and cities in Western Visayas identified by the Comelec as areas of concern for the coming elections.

According to the list of hot spots released by the Commission on Elections, there are 12 hot spots in Iloilo, seven in Capiz, six in Negros Occidental, five in Antique, two in Aklan, and one in Guimaras.

Candidates, watch out for 'candid camera'

BY JOEY GABIETA
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—A group of concerned citizens in Leyte have banded together to prevent candidates from buying votes in the May 14 elections.

Calling themselves "Video Patrol Anti-Fraud Movement," the members of the group vowed to take pictures or video footage of any candidate or their representatives while handing money to voters.

"They (group members) have to take the picture or video shot wherein an actual vote-buying is happening," said Res Salvatierra, organizer of the movement and former Department of Interior and Local Government regional director.

He said all the photos or video shots that the members took would be submitted to the Commission on Elections for the filing of charges against the candidates.

This way, Salvatierra said they would be able to stop moneyed candidates in "frustrating the true will of the people."

The movement was formally launched on May 6 at the Fatima Parish Convention attended by about 200 professionals, businessmen and youth leaders in Leyte.

Salvatierra said the group decided to form an anti-fraud movement after a study of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) showed that the 1998 elections in Eastern Visayas were won mainly on the votes that were bought.

"Shall we allow this to continue? Shall we allow these moneyed candidates (to) frustrate anew our will and choose our leaders?" he asked.

It was then that a movement to stop vote-buying was formed to ensure that the people's will would prevail.

Adolfo Ibañez, Commission on Elections director for Eastern Visayas, commended the group for helping achieve a clean, credible and honest election.

"We welcome that kind of movement and if they have sufficient evidence for us to file the appropriate action, then we will do that," he said.

Ibañez said vote-buying can be a ground for disqualification of a candidate. "But this is very difficult to prove," he added.

More troops sent to CL for polls

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—The regional police office here has ordered the deployment of more troops to several areas of Pampanga and other parts of Central Luzon following intelligence reports that at least four rebel groups would try to disrupt the conduct of the May 14 elections.

Chief Supt. Enrique Galang, Central Luzon police director, said Tuesday that he would not allow any rebel group to intimidate voters and snatch ballot boxes.

"I already ordered the deployment of additional policemen (to) various areas of Pampanga and Central Luzon to prevent these armed communist groups from disrupting the elections," he said.

Galang warned that the rebel groups that would try to meddle in the May 14 elections would "face the full force of the law."

He identified these groups operating in Pampanga and other parts of Central Luzon as the New People's Army, the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan, the Hukbong Magpapalaya ng Bayan, and the Rebolusyonaryong Gerilya ng Arayat.

Earlier, Senior Supt. Ismael Rafanan, Pampanga police director, fielded more police teams to the towns of Candaba, Sasmuan, Arayat, Mexico and Porac town to prevent any election-related violence.

The five towns are considered as bases of operations of the four rebel groups.

Galang said he would not give the rebel groups any opportunity to intervene in the elections.

Temie Lambino, Pampanga election supervisor, has recommended that the towns of Mexico, Minalin, Porac and Sasmuan be declared as election hot spots.

However, Nicolas Fontelera, Commission on Elections regional officer here, told the INQUIRER Monday that the recommendation of Lambino has yet to be approved by the Comelec national office in Manila.

Fontelera also said local communist movements might disrupt the May 14 elections, particularly in Pampanga and Bulacan.

He said Doña Remedios Trinidad town in Bulacan might be placed under direct Comelec control because it is considered as "an immediate area of concern."

He said that the towns of Angat, San Miguel and San Ildefonso in Bulacan are also election hot spots where violence might erupt during or after the elections.

"We will try to prevent violence by augmenting the police troops in these areas in Pampanga and Bulacan," he said. ***Jun Malig with a report from Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Herrera seeks privatization review

FORMER senator Ernesto Herrera called for a review of the government's privatization policy, saying the previous administration's intended fire sale of government-owned and -controlled corporations and assets is not the cure-all for the country's budget problems.

"Before we pursue the next round of privatization of government assets, let us first collect the P70 billion the government should have earned since the 12-year privatization scheme was adopted," Herrera said in a statement.

"We should have already earned P184 billion from the sale of Petron, the MWSS, Fort Bonifacio and many other government corporations and assets, but actual remittances have reached only around P114 billion," Herrera added.

Herrera urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to direct the Assets Privatization Trust-Committee on Privatization to conduct a study to determine if the privatization scheme has indeed been successful.

"The World Bank for instance is even proposing the 'reverse privatization' of the Philippine National Bank," he said.

"Before the government decides to pursue further privatization, let us first assess where privatization has brought us," Herrera said. "How much did we earn and how did we use our revenue? The Committee on Privatization must account for the government's privatization efforts."

Herrera said out of the 445 GOCCs sold from 1986 to 1996, the government was able to earn only P44.5 billion, even as it exposed itself to P105 billion in obligations, resulting in a net loss of P60 billion.

"You add to this the cost of the 653,000 workers who have been laid off in the 12 years of privatization and the picture gets murkier," Herrera said.

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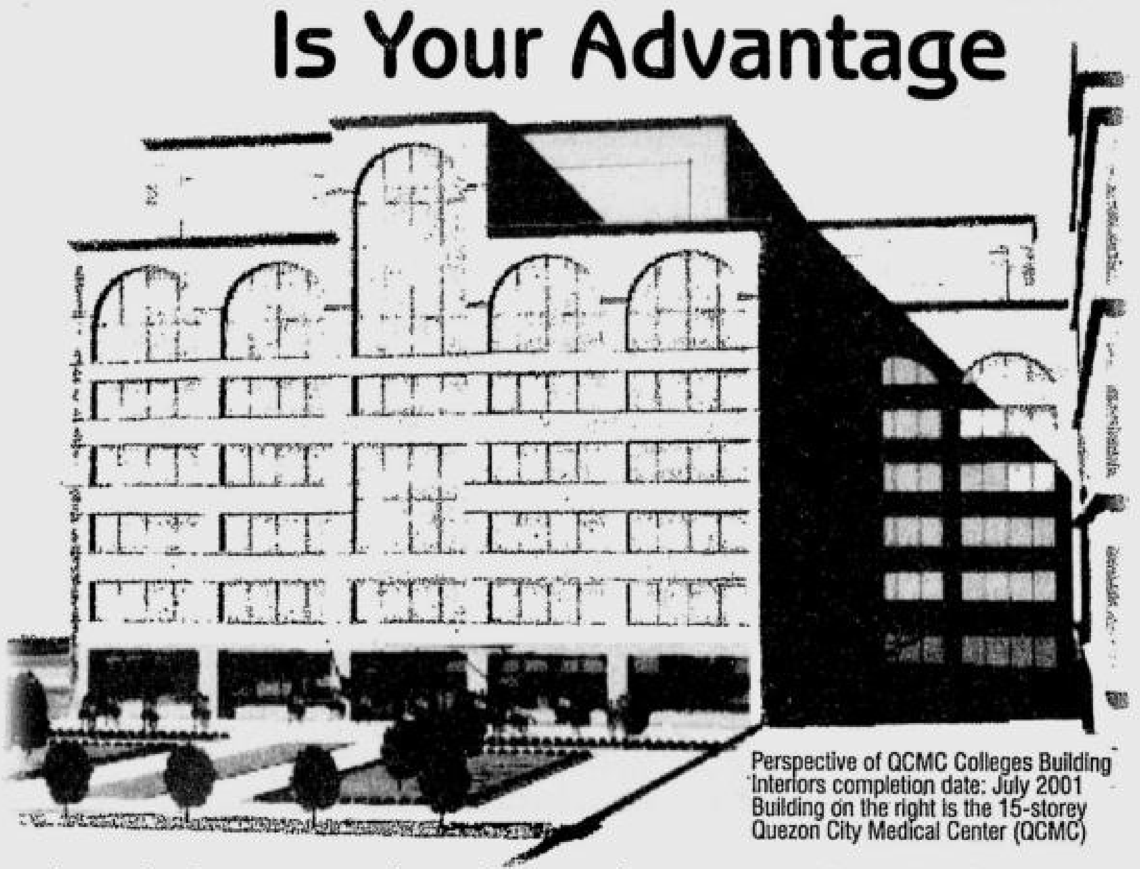

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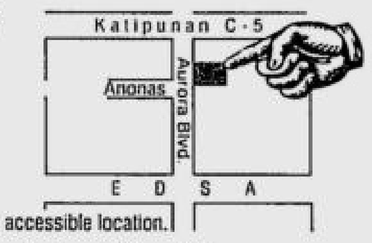

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AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR FELLOW FILIPINO CITIZENS

WE ♡ PING LACSON

We express our sympathy to the victims of the May 1 incident in Malacañang. We regret that the rally ended in a bloody encounter between the ERAP supporters and the military and the police. It pains us to see Filipinos hurting and fighting each other and the unnecessary brutality of the police against some of the civilians.

The humiliating and undignified manner of the arrest and the poor treatment of President Estrada led to the EDSA Tres rally, where Filipinos from all walks of life gathered to express their sympathy for President Estrada. During the rally, opposition candidates of the LDP-Puwersa ng Masa, including Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, were invited to express their views on the arrest of President Estrada and declare their support for him. Contrary to baseless reports, Ping Lacson never incited the Estrada supporters to overthrow the present administration, much more plotted to replace the present administration with a military junta.

It is ironic how the leaders of EDSA II claim that EDSA Tres was organized for the self-interest of the opposition party. On the contrary, it is the administration party who has taken advantage of the situation. A *State of Rebellion,* a term not found in the Philippine constitution, was declared by the present administration. The warrantless arrests being conducted by the present administration is unlawful and unjust. Ping Lacson and the other LDP candidates were being wrongfully accused of an alleged crime, which they never committed.

But Ping Lacson has not given up and will not give up the race. He is as determined as ever to serve the Filipino people as senator.

The warrantless arrests and baseless charge against Ping Lacson are all part of the demolition job employed against him. Not content with linking him into imagined cases involving kidnapping, drug trafficking and murder. - of which the Honorable Court in Quezon City has absolved him of.

He is now being accused of leading a "failed rebellion" against the present administration. He is now wanted for an alleged crime he never committed and is currently being hunted down by police and military forces.

Ping Lacson's track record speaks for itself. We believe him innocent of the crimes being leveled against him.

In a short span of time, Ping Lacson as PNP Chief, achieved the impossible successfully reforming the PNP's image and decreasing the crime rate of our country. He was likewise successful in eradicating the "Kotong Cops" and implementing the "NO TAKE POLICY". His programs as PNP Chief boosted the morale of the police and refurbished its image in the eyes of the Filipino people.

We, therefore, appeal to the present administration not to allow those parties who are bent on furthering their selfish interests to manipulate the current situation for their own ends.

We appeal to all Government officials to uphold the constitutional rights of the Filipino people and not allow a rotten few on these cherished rights.

We appeal to all media practitioners to be conscious of their duty to let the public know the truth without biases towards any party or personality.

We appeal to all Filipinos to work hand in hand for unity and peace in our country and for a CLEAN AND HONEST ELECTIONS come May 14. WE owe it to the present and future generations of our country.

Our country needs Ping Lacson. Let us support him on May 14.

From the Friends & Supporters of Ping Lacson

Gringo a no-show; Nene cites 'overkill

(From page A1)

"It looks like there was an overkill in the preparations for the taking down of the legal requirements for Senator Honasan (before he can be put) under Senate custody," a visibly disappointed Pimentel said in a press briefing at the Senate.

He said he was informed that members of the Philippine National Police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) were there as "complainants" in the case that would be lodged against Honasan.

"Of course, that is a nebulous explanation of their presence," he noted.

But President Macapagal-Arroyo said Honasan had sent word that he wanted to turn himself in to her.

"I just got a message now that he's supposed to surrender to me," she told reporters at the wake of slain Mayor Cesar Platon in Tanauan, Batangas.

The President said she was more than willing to receive Honasan, who is among those suspected of instigating the siege of Malacañang on May 1.

"I don't know (when)," she said. "This is a message from (Pampanga) Gov. Lito Lapid, and I authorized him to (make) the physical arrangement if this is indeed true."

Pimentel was to have accompanied Honasan yesterday afternoon to the DOJ. The latter was to meet with Justice Secretary Hernando Perez so that the mechanics of his being put in the Senate's custody would be ironed out.

But only Honasan's lawyers appeared at Perez's office. Perez did not disclose what transpired at the meeting.

Yesterday morning, Pimentel received a call from Honasan, informing him that the meeting with Perez would no longer take place because of the police presence at the DOJ.

"I don't know, but this may be the reason for his reluctance to go through the process," Pimentel said.

He expressed hope that Honasan's no-show at the DOJ was just a "temporary hitch."

But Honasan himself is hanging tough.

In a statement he issued yesterday, he said he would "only yield to the will of the people"—an apparent reference to his bid for reelection.

"With due respect to Senate President Pimentel, whom I regard so much, I am willing to face squarely my detractors and disprove their accusations under just and fair conditions," he said, adding:

"I am not about to yield my political judgment to the administration. My constituents have the right to expect that every decision I make shall be based on solid legal grounds and strategic considerations in mind."

Honasan also said he would continue "fight(ing)" for his "political principles" in the precincts, "and I shall only yield to the will of the people."

Witnesses

Perez said he had ordered DOJ officials to prepare the rebellion charge against Honasan.

He said five witnesses against the senator, three of whom were policemen, were now in the custody of the PNP.

"Some of them are under the Witness Protection Program," he said.

According to Perez, state prosecutors now on standby will conduct inquest proceedings once Honasan shows up.

Lawyer Daniel Gutierrez said his client would surface soon. "We are just fine-tuning the details," he said.

But Perez said the government would not agree to any compromise on Honasan's arrest.

He said he had already discussed security arrangements with Honasan's lawyers.

Asked what Honasan meant by "just and fair conditions," lawyer Leopoldo Redublo said he wanted to clarify the charges against him and be assured of the "process and mechanisms" for his arrest.

Redublo said the senator protested the arrest order when "no case has yet been filed against him."

"Assuming they have strong evidence against him, why don't they file it in the courts or hold a preliminary investigation (before the DOJ)?" Redublo said.

Asked if Honasan would surface now that the PNP had called off its hunt for him and Lacson, Redublo said this announcement should be made in writing.

"Everything is verbal. *Para kaming sumasagot sa multo* (It's like we're responding to a ghost)," he said.

He added that the senator was still waiting for the Supreme Court's ruling on Malacañang's earlier declaration of a state of rebellion.

"The bottom line is we're in the process of clarifying everything (including) the mechanisms for his arrest," Redublo said.

The lawyer said he and other members of Honasan's defense team were alarmed at seeing "a dozen" CIDG members at the DOJ.

"Despite the assurance of Secretary Perez that they were there to testify, we were not sure if they were there to arrest (Honasan) or if they were under the direction of the secretary," he said.

Redublo also admitted that the senator was worried about "reports" that authorities "may not be able to control policemen who have something personal against those at large."

Clearance

Pimentel said he cleared with Ms Macapagal the matter of taking Honasan in his custody in a phone conversation "a few days ago."

He said it also had the approval of Perez and PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza.

"I would like to make it clear: Senator Honasan will not be surrendering but will only be placed under Senate custody because no charges have been filed against him," Pimentel said.

Should the plan push through, Pimentel said, it would start with a "straight-forward definition of the scenario" by which Honasan would be held.

"We have to define (the kind) of freedom he can still enjoy since there are still no charges against him," Pimentel said.

And should the appropriate charges be filed, Pimentel said, he had started to explore "the possibility of releasing (Honasan) under my recognizance."

Pimentel surmised that Honasan issued his latest statement because "he was concerned about the safety of his person."

"Certain groups might do him harm," Pimentel said, adding that Honasan only wanted to be "entitled to due process and the conduct of a preliminary investigation before charges are filed," and to be "free from any threat of being seized without a warrant."

But senatorial candidates of the People Power Coalition (PPC) are not sold on Pimentel's plan.

Reelectionist Sen. Franklin Drilon said he was not aware of any rule or law that would allow Pimentel to take custody of Honasan. Drilon told reporters in Laoag City yesterday, the last day of the PPC's 13-day "victory run" across the country, that even assuming that charges were filed against Honasan, Pimentel still had to get court permission.

"The matter of the custody of Senator Honasan and where he will be confined is a question for the court where the charges have been filed to decide," Drilon said.

At a breakfast forum at Ciudad Fernandina in San Juan, PPC candidate Wigberto Tañada said Honasan and Panfilo Lacson, another alleged coup plotter, should be given the same treatment as the other suspects, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and ex-Ambassador Ernesto Maceda.

"Senator Honasan can post bail, like Enrile and Maceda. It should not be a problem," Tañada said.

Roberto Pagdanganan, also a PPC candidate, echoed Tañada's view, saying Pimentel's plan was not necessary.

Tañada and Pagdanganan agreed that Honasan and Lacson, both candidates of the Puwersa ng Masa, should surface now because they could be assured that the Macapagal administration would respect their right to due process.

Investigation

In Davao City, PNP chief Mendoza called on both Honasan and Lacson to come out of hiding now that the hunt for them had been called off.

Mendoza pointed out that the hunt was terminated precisely because there were no standing warrants for the arrest of the two men.

But he said the investigation of their alleged involvement in the power grab was continuing.

"Whether they surface or not, the investigation will continue," Mendoza told reporters at the Grand Regal Hotel, where he presided over the coordinating conference of the Armed Forces, PNP and Commission on Elections in Southern Mindanao.

An aide of Honasan's said the senator would surface any time before Monday to shore up his reelection bid.

The aide, who asked not to be named, said Honasan's reelection campaign had been derailed by the negative publicity generated by his going underground.

"Senator Honasan will come out definitely before the elections. That's the agreement," the aide said, adding:

"Some people are spreading the word that he is or will be disqualified. Of course, not all voters are aware of election laws.

With the current stance of Honasan's former comrades-in-arms in the erstwhile military rebel movement, it appears that his reelection is indeed in peril.

The Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa has distanced itself from him and urged him to surrender.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Guardians Center Foundation Inc. said it had "withdrawn support" from his reelection.

The group, representing the biggest faction in the Guardians, an organization of active and ex-military men and civilians, also denied the senator's claim that he had its support.

"We have even declared a 'no vote' for him," the statement said. "A few Guardians support Honasan because they are only loyal to personalities but not to the group."

The group said it turned away from Honasan because he sent some of them to Edsa to join the forces loyal to Joseph Estrada, and then left them "without any support."

They also cited Honasan's support for Estrada during the impeachment trial, as well as his association with Lacson. ***With reports from Juliet L. Javellana, Michael Lim Ubac, Blanche S. Rivera, Carlito Pablo, Christine Avendaño; Jowel F. Canuday PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Boy drowns after 'sona' in Navotas

(From page A1)

(zoning) and the men started scurrying to different directions, he said. Most of them hid in fishing boats docked at the shore.

John Gabriel's father decided to take the boy with him when the menfolk fled because he would be left alone in the Damasco shanty. When the confusion died down hours later, the father found out that the boy was no longer in the boat. Several men dived into the bay but they could not find John-John.

The victim's body was recovered about 4 a.m. the next day. His body was entangled in a fishing rope, said his mother, Baby.

His remains now lie in a small unfinished room the size of a regular pushcart in Barangay Tangos.

Female residents told the INQUIRER that the police team went down from their motorcycles but was not able to round up anyone, or arrest even one person, because all the men were able to hide. They, however, insisted that it was a saturation drive.

Government authorities have insisted that no saturation drives were conducted by the police and military. Some officials said jittery residents could have misconstrued police patrols as saturation drives.

Panic

Local Government Secretary Joey Lina yesterday said his office had received reports that supposed arrests made by men in uniform have caused unnecessary panic among the residents of Navotas and Malabon and this had led some male residents to scamper.

He, however, said his office would entertain complaints from citizens whose rights may have been violated.

Pro-Erap, not thieves

"*Sana huwag nang idamay ang mga hindi kasali sa pulitika* (I wish they'd stop dragging those who are not involved in politics)," Baby appealed to the government. "*Hindi naman dahil mahirap kami, e magnanakaw o* addict *na kami* (Even if we are poor, this does not mean that we're already thieves or drug addicts)."

According to Baby, residents of Barangay Tangos do not involve themselves in politics although many of them are supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada. The residents, she said, did not join any pro-Estrada rally because their only concern was earning a living.

Ricky Bondoc, head of the Navotas chapter of Akbayan Youth, said a similar saturation drive took place in Barangay Navotas West about 11 a.m. Saturday.

He said three armed men, two of whom were in "chocolate-colored" police uniform, accosted him for having tattoos. The supposed police officers only released him after he presented his Akbayan identification card.

!PAGLABAN ANG KALAYAAN
KATARUNGAN - KAPAYAPAAN

STATEMENT OF CONCERN

We, the members of the EDSA People Power Commission, in keeping with our mandate to uphold and promote the ideals and spirit of EDSA I and II, hereby assert our stand on recent events that threatened our national democracy.

We reject and decry the use of the term "EDSA III" in referring to the recent political uprising that took over the EDSA Shrine on Wednesday, April 25, and was inflamed by unscrupulous financiers and ambitious politicians to lay violent siege on Malacañang on May 1. The distinguishing marks of the EDSA People Power spirit-the DEFENSE OF DEMOCRATIC IDEALS, the PRINCIPLE OF PEACE, and the POWER OF PRAYER-visibly evident in February 1986 and January 2001, were patently absent if not rejected by the rabble-rousers during the failed rebellion of April 2001. Rather, we witnessed the coldhearted and insidious deception of many of the despairing poor to instigate them to blind brutality and ruthless rage.

Further, with the exception of a gathering in front of the Davao City Hall, the rest of the nation remained unsympathetic, unlike February 1986 and January 2001 which saw people power throughout the key cities and municipalities of the country.

The April uprising was a fomenting of a mob whose ire was roused purportedly for the sake of Erap, but which defeat has unmasked the violence as the conspiracy of a cowardly cabal of power-grabbers. EDSA I and II were VICTORIES of the Filipino people's love for freedom, truth, justice and peace.

We therefore admonish all to cease and desist from sanctifying that shameless manipulation of misled forces with the title of "EDSA III"- a name that recalls events of national pride, revered as global symbols of the TRIUMPH of FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY, JUSTICE, AND PEACE.

We denouce the cowardly leaders of the April rebellion for their unconscionable exploitation of the restless poor as pawns for their greed for power, abandoning them without remorse at the thwarting of their power-grab.

Nang-gatong ang mga ito at nilinglang ang kanilang tagapakinig upang sugurin ang Malakanyang sa marahas na paraan. Kinalas nila ang lakas ng mga taga-suporta nila--at nang natapos ito sa labu-labo, nagsi-uwian at nagsi-taguan itong mga Ponsyo Pilatong ito sa kanilang mga lungga. Ngayon sila'y naghuhugas-kamay-wala raw silang pakialam sa naganap na karahasan sa Mendiola.

We lament the misfortune of innocent victims of the rioting around Mendiola. We grieve with the injured and condole with the families of those who lost their lives, particularly the brave policemen and soldiers.

We salute and thank the PNP and the Armed Forces for their outstanding discipline and admirable professionalism in defending civil society, the legitimate government, and the Constitution. Their steadfast adherence to President Arroyo's policy of maximum tolerance in the face of violent attack is a bring light in the events of that dark day.

We hail the wisdom and prudence of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, especially in the face of that life-threatening crisis. Her serene steadfastness of purpose and her firmness elicited courage from her ranks and earned the confidence of the nation.

Hinahangaan namin ang kanyang desisyon na mag-abot ng tulong sa mga nasaktan sa paglusob sa Malakanyang, at pabayaan parusahan sa lakas ng Batas ang mga gumamit sa kanila sa paraan ng mga kasinungalingan, hindi makataong pag-udyok at hamon, at pagbibigay ng mga nakakalitong inumin at droga. Sa kanyang maunawaing desisyon, ipinatunay ni Pangulong Arroyo na siya ay kumikilos bilang pangulo ng buong sambayanang Pilipino.

We applaud the determination and fortitude of the Filipinos from all walks of life and in all regions of the nation who, in this moment of threat and temptation, linked arms in the spirit of EDSA and remained calm, peaceful and prayerful.

We affirm our continued commitment to the vision and ideals of the EDSA peaceful people power of February 1986 and January 2001. We join our patriotic fellow-Filipinos in working and praying for the preservation of our freedoms and the emergence of a civilization of selflessness and love, a democratic society ruled by Truth, Justice, and Peace in our beloved Philippines.

The **EDSA PEOPLE POWER COMMISSION**

ADVT.

An ad for an ad: Puwersa ng Masa hits back

(From page A1)

lice chief Panfilo Lacson, who the government suspects were behind a plot to grab power.

The ad asks: "*Ngayon,pulitiko, masaya ka na ba sa ginawa mo* (Now, politician, are you happy with what you've done)?"

A member of the 13-0 Movement, Dan Songco, said the anti-Puwersa ads abided by the principle of "truth in advertising," contrary to the opposition's claim.

"We just showed what they said. There is no falsehood in what we presented. It's a truth campaign, it's not negative campaign(ing)," he said.

"We just want to bring out the truth—that they manipulated, and in the end, disowned. It's our responsibility to remind the public what these people who are running for office did at Edsa."

New anti-gov't ad

But the opposition took its own dig at the government when it yesterday began airing an ad condemning those who belittled the six-day pro-Estrada vigil at the Edsa Shrine.

It also condemned the police dispersal of thousands of Estrada supporters who stormed Malacañang in an apparent attempt to take over the Palace.

The ad shows footage of the mammoth crowd at the Edsa Shrine and the Labor Day assault. It focuses on rioters being dispersed and arrested by the police.

A narrator says: "*Binansagan tayong mga mangmang, tanga, mandurugas, walang prinsipyo. Hindi tayo pinakinggan sa Edsa, niyurakan sa Mendiola* (They branded us ignorant, stupid, cheating, unprincipled. They didn't listen to us at Edsa, they trampled on us at Mendiola) . . ."

"0-13 *sa Mayo 14. Tagumpay ng masa, malapit na* (The victory of the masses is near)!"

The final scene shows a 0-13 scoreboard in favor of the opposition. The ad says it was paid for by "friends of the PnM-LDP."

Based on truth

For their part, party-list group Bayan Muna and other militant groups sided with the 13-0 Movement and said they saw no reason why the President should have asked the ads' sponsors to abort the campaign.

According to Bayan Muna nominee Satur Ocampo, the ads are not the black propaganda that the opposition claims they are "since (they) are based on truth."

"The message of the ads is clear. The electorate must get rid of opportunist politicians whose thirst for power can always lead them to launch coups and other destabilization plots," he said.

"We don't see any reason why President Macapagal-Arroyo is bending backwards for the unrepentant coup plotters," he added.

Tiglao said that the President wished to stop the series with the theme "*Iboboto ba natin ang mga ito*? (Will we vote for these people?)," because the aggressive ads would only make the political temperature rise.

Contract

In a radio interview, Tiglao said that the sponsors would not stop airing the ads because of a contract. "The contract can't just be pulled out, although the sponsors apparently assured the President that they respect her request," he said.

"Another problem here is . . . no matter what the President says, people will think that these ads came from her. This kind of identification is unavoidable," Tiglao told radio station dzMM.

The other day, Ms Macapagal asked the sponsors to stop broadcasting of the ads, saying she wanted a "time of healing" in the aftermath of the violent May 1 assault on Malacañang.

"The President doesn't have anything to do with those ads, (or even) the People Power Coalition campaign and (its) information program," Tiglao reiterated.

Loi hits Gloria

A press release from Loi Ejercito's campaign headquarters said the Puwersa candidate "scored the offensive media attack ads placed in a desperate bid to snatch the loyal pro-opposition votes of the masses."

Calling the sponsors of the ads "schemers," the statement quoted Ejercito as saying: "(Ms Macapagal) admitted the ads were (in) bad taste. Ordering (them) withdrawn (shows her) deeper regret that the ads backfired . . .

"When the ads posed the question '*Iboboto mo pa ba sila* (Will you still vote for them)?' in reference to Puwersa ng Masa (PnM) candidates, millions of Filipino voters replied with a resounding yes," Ejercito claimed.

She said "Malacañang panicked after realizing that the attack ads 'boomeranged' on them."

She urged Ms Macapagal, "who has claimed moral ascendancy to the presidency" to be "moral enough to join the opposition in seeking (an immediate) probe of reports that the state-run Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office has squandered P150 million in public funds to finance the attack ads."

"(Will) they do something about it when it involves PCSO chief Honey Girl Singson-de Leon, the sister of whistle blower Chavit Singson?" Ejercito asked.

The other day, LDP spokesman Demaree Raval, suggested that the Commission on Elections ban all negative political ads from now on. ***With reports from Andrea Trinidad and Rosary Diane Baytion***

Enrile wants tapes destroyed

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

DESTROY the tapes.

Reelectionist Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday asked the Commission on Elections to confiscate and destroy the tapes of TV advertisements asking voters to junk him and the rest of the Puwersa ng Masa senatorial slate.

Enrile, in an eight-page petition, also asked the poll body to stop the airing of the TV ads.

He branded the advertisements put out by the 13-0 Movement as "black propaganda" that would adversely affect and prejudice his chances in the May 14 polls.

Named respondents were the giant television network ABS-CBN, and the government-controlled IBC-13.

He said an interview used in the ad was "spliced out of context to maliciously insinuate the petitioner (Enrile) is a man who is willing to abandon his values and principles for pecuniary gain."

Enrile said that in one scene at EDSA "only a small portion of his speech was quoted as to convey the false and misleading impression that the petitioner (Enrile) encouraged the peaceful crowd at the EDSA Shrine to commit violent acts at Mendiola."

The paid ads, aired on Channels 2, 13, and 23 last week, showed Enrile bragging in an interview that he was worth P11 billion and in another scene showed him urging the pro-Estrada crowd to surround Malacañang Palace. The ad was then punctuated by the question, "Iboboto nyo pa ba ang taong ito? (Will you still vote for this person?)".

Enrile said the ads violated Republic Act no. 9006, or the Fair Elections Act, which allows only registered political parties, national, regional, sectoral parties, or organizations participating under the party list elections and for all bona fide candidates seeking national and local elective positions to place election propaganda, whether on television, cable television, radio, newspapers or any other medium.

He said the 13-0 Movement, which put out the ad, was not a registered political party or sectoral party.

He also said that ABS-CBN and IBC 13 did not follow the requirements for the airing of political ads. He cited section 4 of Republic Act No. 9006 which states that "any broadcast of election propaganda by television or radio for or against a candidate or group of candidates to any public office shall bear and be identified by the reasonably legible or edible words, "political advertisement paid for," followed by the true and correct name and address of the candidate or party for whose benefit the election propaganda was aired."

The ads, he said, "failed to identify the candidate or party for whose benefit the subject election was aired."

Enrile's move was apparently in reaction to Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo's comment that the poll body cannot stop the airing of negative political TV ads unless the aggrieved parties file a complaint.

But Benipayo yesterday said Enrile's petition might be rendered moot if the 13-0 Movement decided to pull out the controversial ads.

He said, however, that the Comelec will investigate Enrile's allegations.

The Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino and the Puwersa ng Masa opposition have accused the People Power Coalition of being behind the negative ads.

In a statement, the LDP-PnM said the ads "released by the PPC represent a desperate, last-ditch effort to salvage what is left of (their) faltering, losing and bankrupt campaign." *With Mae Lorraine Rafols*

Comelec monitors poll hot spots

(From page A1)

Zamboanga del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Sulu and Basilan.

Also on the list of the so-called "hot spots" are the towns of Mabitak in Laguna; Curimao and Sta. Lucia in Ilocos Norte; Balauan in La Union; Natividad and Tayug in Pangasinan; Borongan in Samar; Banaba in Palawan; Dolores in Quezon; Calbayog in Samar; Sugod, Pilar, San Remegio in Cebu; La Paz and San Jose in Surigao del Norte; Balo-i, Kauswagan and Salvador in Lanao del Norte.

The cities of Dagupan, Surigao, San Pablo, Canlaon and Danao are also "areas of concern," according to Benipayo.

Comelec officials, including regional directors and election supervisors, recently met with top officers of the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines and came up with 45 potential trouble spots.

For his part, the head of the poll watchdog National Movement for Free Elections urged the Comelec to also keep an eye on Metro Manila and Lanao del Sur.

Jose Concepcion said cheating was likely to happen in Lanao del Sur where votes would be counted manually. In the past two elections, machines did the counting.

Concepcion also warned that allies of ousted leader Joseph Estrada might launch on May 14 a destabilization attempt in Metro Manila where government troops quelled a riot by his supporters outside Malacañang on Labor Day.

Benipayo said he and the other six Comelec commissioners would decide this week which areas to place under the poll body's control.

On Feb. 13, the Comelec issued Resolution No. 3618 stating that it would put under its control an area where terrorism and fraud had been committed in previous elections.

Task force

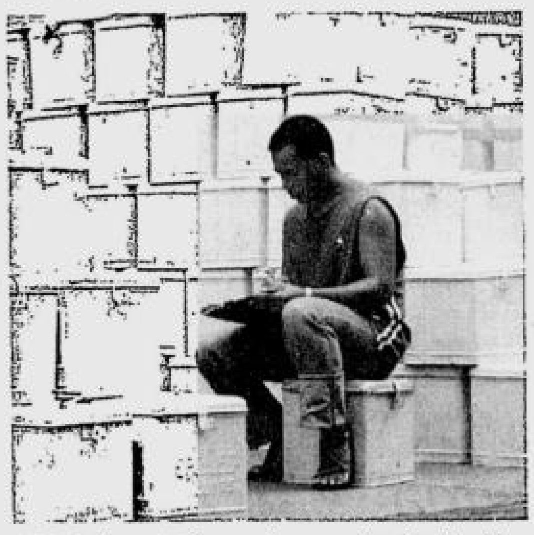
In an area under Comelec control, a task force made of lawyers led by a regional director is empowered to administer all affairs of the local government.

The Comelec can also substitute an entire police force in a locality with a military unit, revoke the exemptions to the gun ban granted to candidates and their bodyguards, and augment peacekeeping forces with policemen and military troops.

"The members of the task force will be practically running the municipality or province (and) the PNP will take orders from them," Benipayo said.

But he said that not all hot spots would be placed under Comelec control since some of these areas would only need a strong military presence to discourage violence.

"We will try to make this elections as clean, credible and orderly as possible" despite various constraints, Benipayo said.



FOR delivery to the provinces on time for the May 14 elections, ballot boxes are logged in by a Comelec employee. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

The polls are being touted as a referendum on the fledgling Macapagal administration, whose candidates are to fight Estrada's opposition coalition.

With five days left for the event, complaints are piling up of missing ballots and fraud. The seven-member Comelec itself is split between allies of Ms Macapagal and Estrada.

Benipayo, a former judge known for his integrity and courage and who was appointed to his job only a month after Estrada was toppled in a January popular uprising, said he wanted the polls held "with no major glitches."

But analysts say the biggest concern is election-related violence and killings.

On Monday, a communist gunman shot dead Mayor Cesar Platon of Tanauan City during a campaign rally in Tuy, Batangas. Platon was the administration Lakas-NUCD gubernatorial candidate in Batangas.

President Macapagal yesterday went to his wake in Tanauan City and ordered additional security for his widow Bhess who is running for Tanauan mayor.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez voiced concern over the assassination, saying the killing came just after the communist-led National Democratic Front signed an initial peace agreement with government negotiators in Oslo, Norway. ***With reports from Marie Carisa Ordinario, Rocky Nazareno and Juliet Labog-Javellana***

COUPLES FOR CHRIST

An excerpt from a memo of the CFC Director to all MM elders:

"Manila, being the center of the country and the focal point for EDSA I and II is critical to the well-being of the entire country. The well-being of Manila is dependent upon having good mayors. But we have seen how some pro-Erap MM mayors have gone all-out to exploit the current situation at EDSA. It is profoundly disturbing to have such leaders.

"Given this intense crisis upon our land, which is not only political but moral and spiritual, the CFC Council has decided to officially oppose the candidacy of pro-Erap mayoralty candidates, and support their pro-democracy opponents. We thus enjoinall our members in MM to be actively involved in opposing evil and promoting stability and peace, through their choice of whom to support and vote for.

"MANILA	CFC is for Amado Bagatsing	CFC is against Lito Atienza Alfredo Lim

"Those mayoralty candidates we are against are openly and strongly pro-Erap. Many have participated in their current EDSA rally and have spoken out to stir up the crowd against the present government. They are a threat to stability and progress. They are instruments of the evil one. They are undeserving of the people's support.

"Our stand is not politicking. During these crucial times, our stand is a moral imperative. Our stand is part of the spiritual warfare that we as Couples of Christ are deeply involved in.

"God bless the Philippines!"

In the service of Christ,
CFC Council
By:
Frank Padilla
CFC Director

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PNP chief says info on financiers raw

(From page A1)

President Joseph Estrada and senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson had contributed a total of P1 billion for the overthrow of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The INQUIRER based its banner story yesterday on a three-page report "Funding Structures and Mechanism for the May 1 Rebellion" signed by two ranking PNP intelligence officers.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the Philippine National Police was trying to determine whether those who financed the pro-Estrada rallies on Edsa and the assault on Malacañang could be charged with rebellion.

"Once it is determined that they made an illegal contribution, for instance, outright arming, that would be rebellion," Tiglao said in Taglish over dzMM.

Militant groups urged the Macapagal administration to conduct a thorough investigation of the allegations that Filipino-Chinese businessmen bankrolled the five-day pro-Estrada rallies that ended in a bloody riot at Mendiola on May 1.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said the government should file criminal charges against the businessmen and "make them pay" if they participated in the power grab.

The party-list group Bayan Muna called on President Macapagal to maintain a hardline policy against the 18 Estrada cronies and to go beyond "leaking intelligence reports and issuing press releases."

"If the report is true, these criminals must be made to pay," Bayan chair Rafael Mariano said.

The PNP chief said yesterday's INQUIRER story written by Christine Herrera was "not (based on) a PNP report and still considered fictitious."

But Herrera said that when he talked with Mendoza on Tuesday, the PNP chief admitted that he was aware that there was a report about the financiers of the rebellion but he refused to name them.

In the interview, Mendoza ordered the investigation of the financiers who, he said, may be held liable for "grand conspiracy."

"This is contrary to what the opposition had been claiming that the power grab was spontaneous. These contributors may be held liable for conspiracy to overthrow the government," Mendoza was quoted by Herrera as saying.

Clarification

In Camp Crame, the directorial staff headed by Director Rex Piad clarified that the suspected financiers of the coup plot against Ms Macapagal could not yet be "accused of being part of conspiracy" because their involvement was still being validated.

"As of now, we cannot say whether or not they indeed participated in an attempt to overthrow the government," Piad said.

Mendoza told reporters in Davao City that he had directed his staff to get in touch with Herrera to discuss the report.

The PNP chief said he wanted to know the identities of Herrera's sources from PNP intelligence "so we can also get from them whether there are really evidence to link the names of personalities into their alleged complicity in the May 1 assault."

But Mendoza assured that they would "definitely" not compel Herrera to reveal her sources because "that is privileged communication."

"We respect the communication between the source and the reporters," he said.

Special report

PNP intelligence chief Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya said a "special report" about the alleged involvement of Estrada's friends had been prepared for submission to Malacañang.

"There were many sources from where that information came from. That is the collated list, but we are still validating it," Berroya said over radio station dzMM.

Asked whether the Chinese-Filipino businessmen indeed funded the power grab, Berroya said: "We are not ready to declassify the information that we have on that matter. Investigation is still ongoing. The case is not yet closed."

Mendoza has also ordered three intelligence units to validate the "raw information."

He said he ordered the probe because he also wanted to protect the rights of the people who were named in the report.

The intelligence report said the fund-raising in Manila was allegedly led by Henry Lim, owner of Steniel Paper Corp. and Sebastian Chua, owner of Star Paper Corp. David Lim, a prominent Cebu trader, led the fund-raising in the Visayas and Le Peng Wee in Mindanao.

Luxury vehicle importers

These businessmen were primarily supporting the senatorial campaign of Lacson, a former PNP chief.

Besides Lim and Chua, the Manila-based businessmen who allegedly funded the power grab were identified as Roberto Co, an importer of luxury vehicles; Eric Co, also an importer of luxury vehicles; David Tan, co-owner of Pegasus; and Jolly Ting, co-owner of Lexus.

They were joined by Leo Chua, co-owner of Infinity; William Go, co-owner of Legend; William Keong, owner of Subic International and Development Corp.; Ramon Lee, corporate partner of Belle Resources; Manuel Tan, owner of Bulk Handlers Inc.; Kim Wong, owner of First Karaoke Bar and a certain Mr. Yu, owner of Sea Oil Resources.

Yu, who allegedly contributed P25 million, was engaged in oil smuggling, the report said.

"One of the sources of funds was from the close associates of former PNP boss Panfilo Lacson from Cebu and Bohol. These Chinese-Filipino businessmen contributed P250 million," the report said.

The businessmen based in Cebu and Bohol were identified in the report as David Lim, brother of Peter and Willy Lim.

David allegedly arranged and coordinated the fund-raising. The Lim brothers are suspected of involvement in rice and corn smuggling, according to the PNP report.

Douglas Lu Ym, John Young, Alberto and Ricky Cagang were allegedly aligned with this group. But the report did not categorically say that the three businessmen had given money to the coup plotters.

Bayan chair Mariano pointed out that Jimenez, Le Peng Wee, Ramon Lee, William Go and the 14 others "are the big-time financiers of Estrada's criminal gang" and should be made accountable for being conduits of the funds plundered by Estrada and his cohorts.

Disqualify Jimenez

"Specifically, we call on the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to conduct a probe of the role of Jimenez in the aborted coup d'etat and riots. There might be a solid ground for his disqualification in Manila's congressional elections," Mariano said.

Bayan Muna president Satur Ocampo said the government should not enter any compromise agreement, back door negotiations or reconciliatory moves with the "conspirators" as it would be tantamount to betrayal of public trust.

He said the PNP report belied claims by the Estrada camp that the five-day gathering in Edsa Shrine and the violent mass action in Mendiola was a spontaneous mass action to reverse the verdict of People Power II.

Ocampo said that with the disclosure of the intelligence report, it had become obvious that what took place on the day after Estrada was arrested up to the May 1 riots was a well-staged plan to undo People Power II and restore the Estrada camp back to power.

"It is a modern siege conspired and staged by the rival faction of the ruling elite," he said.

Bayan Muna said the rich Chinese-Filipino financiers of the failed power grab were "clients" of Estrada way back in 1998, who supported the discredited leader all the way "in exchange for rigged government contracts and other shady deals with government."

"This time the gamble did not succeed because the Filipino people stood up and validated the verdict against Estrada," the group said. ***With a report from Martin Marfil***

Gloria confirms 'power' proposal

(From page A1)

EDWIN BACASMAS

AFTER a month-long red alert, more troops pull out of Camp Crame on Wednesday to return to their mother units.

that the Enrile camp had sent emissaries reached her "through my Cabinet-level officials."

At the time, Palace officials denied that talks between the opposition and the government were taking place.

Asked if the overtures could be used as evidence that Enrile and other opposition leaders were plotting to grab power for themselves, she said: "I will leave that up to my lawyers because (Enrile et al.) were talking to the emissaries but the chain of emissaries, I suppose, can testify."

Later that Monday, April 30, as she marked her first 100 days in office, Ms Macapagal announced that an alleged power grab had been foiled.

But before dawn the next morning, the pro-Estrada demonstrators were at the gates of Malacañang, where they were dispersed by police.

The same day, the President declared a state of rebellion; and Enrile was arrested.

"Remember the first time that they were going to do it (march on the Palace)? It was (Sunday night until Monday morning) and in fact (on Monday), I said (the power grab) fizzled out, and then they did it. Because the night before, they were trying to negotiate for power sharing and I said no," the President told reporters as she was leaving the wake of slain Tanauan City Mayor and Lakas-NUCD gubernatorial candidate Cesar V. Platon.

'So they struck'

"Remember that was when I said 'why don't you strike now?' Because when I said no, they said, 'Where do we go from here?' and I said, 'Well, why don't you strike now so that we can finish it once and for all?'" Ms Macapagal recounted.

"And so they struck, sad to say, using the poor as their cannon fodder and so we defeated them," the President concluded.

She stressed that the government would prosecute the suspected masterminds of the alleged plot to oust her.

"Now is the time for reconciliation but not yet for the masterminds. Reconciliation is for those who were used as ammunition. Reconciliation with the masterminds will have to come after justice is served," she said.

In a visit yesterday to Cavite and Nasugbu, Batangas, before going to Platon's wake, Ms Macapagal delivered the same stern warning to the alleged coup plotters.

Government officials have claimed that Enrile was behind the alleged plot to install himself at the head of a civilian-military junta.

The reelectionist senator and former defense minister has denied all allegations.

'Biggest mistake'

In Manila, the commander of the military's anti-coup Task Force Libra said opposition leaders failed in their alleged attempt to grab power because "they thought they could buy the military."

"That was their biggest mistake," said Maj. Gen. Dionisio Santiago, who is also the commanding general of the Armed Forces' Special Operation Command.

"They thought we would bargain integrity for money," Santiago said in an interview.

His remarks bolstered persistent talk that huge sums of money were offered by prominent figures in the Estrada camp to officers and soldiers in exchange for their crucial support of the alleged power grab.

The bargaining allegedly went into high gear as the gargantuan crowd of Estrada supporters massed at the Edsa Shrine following the former president's arrest on charges of plunder.

P2-4 billion

While no military officer wants to state on record how much money is being talked about, unofficial accounts charge that P2-4 billion was earmarked to court the military.

According to one version, the "prices" ranged from P20-50 million for generals to P1 million for non-commissioned officers (sergeants).

Santiago did not confirm whether money was indeed offered to the military. But he pointed out: "They had the wrong estimate."

Speaking for himself and other senior officers, Santiago said, "our priority is not money."

"It's what kind of name we will leave behind (that's important to us)," Santiago said.

"We are legacy-conscious," the soft-spoken officer added.

For their part, mid-level officers have a career to think about, he said. "It's a question of what is right or wrong," he added.

Looking back at the defense of Malacañang on May 1, Santiago said the leaders of the alleged ouster attempt exploited the situation by anticipating "the military's thinking."

"They knew we would not fire into the crowd. They used that against us," he said.

Task Force Libra was formed on April 26 to counter any armed challenge to the government.

The President personally sent some of the military units assigned to the task force back to their original areas of operation early this week. The task force, however, remains on active status.

Win then make up

For the first time since the May 1 attack, Ms Macapagal ventured to three Southern Tagalog provinces to hold dialogues with residents and distribute livelihood assistance funds.

She also seized the opportunity to resume campaigning for the administration-backed People Power Coalition.

In Nasugbu, the President emphasized that her administration was intent on "victory with reconciliation afterwards."

In Cavite, she distributed P1 million for multi-livestock loan program for farmers, around P500,000 for the construction of day-care centers, and certificates of land ownership agreements to 42 farmer-beneficiaries.

Before going to Cavite, the President was in Nasugbu, where she gave another P1 million, plus fishing gear, to farmers.

Her last stop for the day was Laguna, where she signed over P3.2 million for power lines and allotted P260,000 for day-care centers, among other projects.

'Chinoy' traders deny funding coup plot

(From page A1)

"But if they don't have any proof, they should also be prepared to go to jail for the rest of their lives," he said.

Wellington "Willy" Lim also maintained that neither he nor his younger brothers, David and Peter, gave money to the alleged plot to overthrow Ms Macapagal.

"We are surprised to read our names in the newspaper. We are innocent. These are fabricated stories," said Lim, who also spoke on behalf of his two brothers.

Lim said the real fundraisers of the alleged coup could have fed his and his brothers' names to the police intelligence officers in Camp Crame to keep their identities hidden.

"Our names are constantly used in several controversies. I don't know. We are simple businessmen. We don't know about it," he said.

Lim, however, admitted that he and his brothers were close friends of senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson when the latter was still the Cebu Metropolitan District Command chief in the early 1990s.

But he clarified that they were not helping Lacson in his senatorial bid.

John Young said he did not think there was money coming from Cebu to help finance the so-called "Edsa Tres" because "it happened all of a sudden."

"Businessmen will not part with the money that easily because they will suspect the money will just be pocketed," he said.

He also pointed out he had "no business relationship" with either jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada or Lacson.

But he admitted he knew Estrada because he was a senator and Lacson because he used to be the Cebu Metrodiscom chief.

Erap foots bill at Ginza

Estrada was a patron of Ginza Japanese Restaurant owned by Young.

But Young said Estrada was a paying patron who loved to host dinners. The last time Estrada dined at Ginza was in November 2000 when he was in the company of about 40 people, he said.

Young said that Estrada paid the bill that reached about P30,000 and that he had the receipt to prove it.

Contrary to what people thought, Young said Estrada always paid the bill whenever he ate at Ginza.

Young said he knew Peter and Willy Lim but he did not know the younger brother David that much.

Young's wife Elena said she was shocked by reports linking her family to anti-government activities.

"*Nganong apil-apilon man mi* (Why are we being dragged)?" she said in Cebuano.

"We have nothing to do with the shipping consortium WG&A in terms of running it. It's owned by three families. Our family has the biggest investment but WG&A is run by professionals," she added.

Aside from Ginza, Young owns Lam Hai Chinese Restaurant in Cebu. He operates Wander Lanes, a travel agency and owns Jedcor, a company engaged in real estate property leasing.

His second-degree cousin, Joy Augustus Young, is a party-list representative for Promdi.

Young's wife is Elena Chiongbian, whose family is the biggest shareholder in WG&A. The other co-owners of the shipping company are the Aboitizes and the Go Tongs.

Nightclub owners

The Lim brothers are the No. 1 importer and dealer of surplus vehicles in Cebu. They also own several nightclubs and karaoke bars in Cebu City.

Peter Lim figured highly in the dossier of Central Visayas drug lords that former Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco exposed in the House of Representatives in 1997.

Cuenco's expose triggered a legislative inquiry but it did not prosper because Cuenco's dossier was supposed to be a raw report that the police was unable to validate.

Douglas Lu Ym, a Filipino-Chinese businessman in Cebu City who was dragged in the report, is reportedly in the United States.

Lacson vs Berroya

Senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson criticized his arch-enemy Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, PNP intelligence chief, for leaking the intelligence report to the media.

"What do you expect with an intelligence officer like Berroya? *Mahilig yan sa* white paper *pagkatapos yong ginawa niya na* white paper *ginagawa niyang* intelligence report. So *lahat ng* intelligence *niya palpak, mag-iimbento, tapos* they will pass it off as intelligence report," he said on dyLA.

Lacson, a former PNP chief, said some of the businessmen identified by the intelligence report were his friends and had helped in his campaign.

He said Henry Lim, owner of Steniel Paper Corp., and Sebastian Chua, owner of Star Paper Corp., help print his campaign materials.

He admitted that Peter and Willy Lim, Lu Ym and Young were his friends. But he said he had not received campaign contributions from any of them.

Lacson said the businessmen lacked the financial resources to finance an alleged power grab, especially that the country is in an economic crisis.

"*Walang ganoong may pera ngayon kasi napakahirap ng buhay ngayon pati sa negosyo.* Can you imagine 18 people financing more than a million people in Edsa, *matutuyo yung* resources *nila*," Lacson said.

He said Jimenez could not have financed the May 1 siege because the businessman needed the money to finance his congressional bid in Manila.

Lacson said Peter Lim might have been dragged in the report because he was once linked to the illegal drug trade.

In a letter to the INQUIRER, Lacson said "that I do not know nightclub owners David Tan of Lexus, Leo Chua of Infinity and William Go of Legend."

"These names are being linked to me when everybody in Camp Crame knows the police general-patrons of these nightclub owners. Any journalist can visit these nightclubs and ask around who the police generals and top PNP officials frequenting these expensive nightspots," Lacson said.

"What worries me is the unfair dragging of the names of my friends and supporters like Henry Lim, Sebastian Chua, Douglas Lu Ym and Kim Wong. These people are known to me as legitimate businessmen and I don't believe they would risk their business by supporting protest rallies," Lacson said.

Posters

He said Kim Wong donated thousands of posters and stickers for his campaign.

"The administration knows this and this is the reason why Mary Ong, at the prodding of her handlers in Camp Crame, is trying to implicate him in illegal drugs," Lacson said.

He said he was the real target of the intelligence report, which, according to him, seeks "to further cripple my senatorial campaign.

The Legend Hotels International Corp. also denied that a certain William Go, a suspected financier of the coup plot, was "co-owner of Legend."

"There is no, nor has there ever been, a William Go connected with The Legend Hotels International Corp., either as co-owner, or board member, or company executive since the incorporation of our company," said Delfin M. Sigua, vice president and general manager of The Legend Hotel, in a statement.

With Ping in hiding, wife Alice comes out of the shadows

(From page A1)

Philippine National Police started airing the other night a political ad showing his wife Alice appealing to the public on his behalf.

In the 30-second ad, Alice spoke in Filipino as she introduced herself as Lacson's wife (*maybahay*) and asked voters to ignore the "lies (*kasinungalingan*)" hurled against him.

She was shown seated on a sofa and wearing a blue and orange shirt and vest.

"*Kilala ninyo naman po ang asawa ko... Marami na siyang nagawa* (You know my husband. He has achieved a lot)," Alice said.

She did not specify the supposed lies and achievements.

Ousted President Joseph Estrada, titular leader of the PnM and an ally of Lacson's, had earlier taunted People Power Coalition candidates Francis Pangilinan and Ralph Recto for having their celebrity wives appear in their campaign ads and sorties.

Estrada indicated a low opinion of any man who would use his wife to campaign for him.

Lacson, along with his fellow PnM candidate Sen. Gregorio Honasan, has made himself scarce since the violent May 1 attack on Malacañang by Estrada's supporters.

He is among those suspected by the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo of having plotted a power grab.

Earlier yesterday, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez appealed to Lacson to turn himself in.

"If anybody is listening in the camp of General Lacson, I think it is better (that he negotiate) with me so that I can assure that his rights are protected," Perez said.

Lacson immediately rejected Perez's appeal, saying in a radio interview that the charge against him had yet to be filed in court.

Agence France Presse quoted him as saying that he would not surrender as "first of all, the word 'surrender,' I think, is a misnomer because there are no charges."

"My lawyer went to the (PNP and) the Department of Justice to get a copy of the evidence but nothing was given. So this order to arrest us without warrants is capricious," he said.

Double talk

Lacson told radio station dyLA in Cebu City that he did not intend to surface until he had verified that the order for a nationwide hunt against him and other opposition leaders had actually been recalled.

He said he had asked his lawyer to counter-check PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza's earlier announcement to that effect because, he said, the Macapagal administration had lately been engaged in double talk.

He also noted Perez's statement to reporters that issuing a warrant for his arrest was not necessary because rebellion was a continuing crime.

Asked where he was hiding, Lacson said: "I'm sorry but I cannot tell you. I hope you understand. But I am still in the Philippines."

He admitted that some policemen were helping him but declined to say whether he was with Honasan.

Lacson said he was also waiting for the Supreme Court to rule on his petition to nullify the order to arrest him and other opposition leaders despite the absence of warrants issued by the courts.

Until the tribunal makes a final ruling, "I will keep my options open," AFP quoted him as saying.

Lacson reiterated that he had nothing to do with the siege of Malacañang.

He said that he appeared only twice at the pro-Estrada rallies at Edsa, and that he was not even at the historic highway when the loyalists marched on the Palace.

Lacson said there was no basis to arrest him because what happened on May 1 was not a rebellion.

Under the law, he said, rebellion could only be considered if there was an uprising and a taking of arms. Neither happened on that day, he said.

Accusations

Last month, Lacson was implicated in the abduction and murder of public relations man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito.

This was after his former men at the elite Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force were alleged to have pulled off the twin murders in Cavite last year.

About the same time, relatives of kidnap victims filed kidnapping charges against Lacson and his chief aides.

Every time a new accusation is directed at him, Lacson would dismiss it as part of the supposed smear campaign against him. ***With reports from AFP, Shirley Hope Sebastian and Rosary Diane Baytion***

Bulauitan, Buenavista Baguio-bound

BY JUNE NAVARRO

SYDNEY Olympians Lerma Bulauitan and Eduardo Buenavista will head 26 members of the athletics team in a three-month training in Baguio City in preparation for the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games in September.

Chair Butch Tuason of the Philippine Sports Commission and athletics chief Go Teng Kok made the decision following the impressive showing of Filipino athletes in the Thailand Open last week.

The country finished second overall after winning seven gold medals, six silvers and six bronzes in Bangkok.

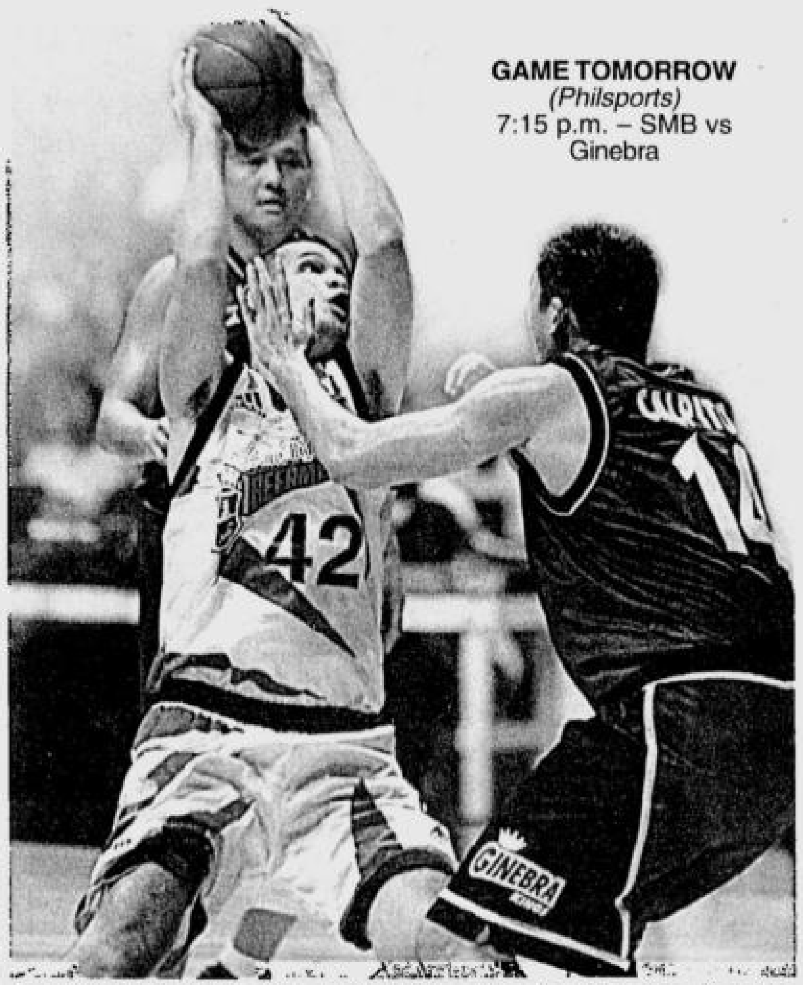
Bulauitan and Buenavista will be joined by middle-distance runner John Lozada, decathlete Fidel Gallenero, pole vaulter Emerson Obiena, marathoners Allan Ballester, Roy Vence and Christabel Martes and Geralyn Amandoron, the country's new toast in women's javelin throw.

These athletes, along with the six-man coaching staff of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association, will motor to Baguio on June 5 and stay there until Aug. 31.

"There will be no vacation for these athletes during their training in Baguio. Their relatives are allowed to visit the athletes but the athletes are not allowed to leave camp," said Go.

Trainers Dario de Rosas, Jojo Posadas, Isidro del Prado, Romeo Gido, Mario Castro and Alex Ligtas will spearhead the training of the tracksters for the SEA Games.

Beermen repeat over Kings


GAME TOMORROW
(Philsports)
7:15 p.m. – SMB vs Ginebra

DANNY Seigle (42) of San Miguel Beer tries to wiggle free from the defense put up by Ginebra's Banjo Calpito (14) and Vergel Meneses (back) in Game 1 of the PBA All-Filipino Finals on Sunday. San Miguel won, 81-75.

ROMY HOMILLADA

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

WITH Danny Ildefonso going on a third-quarter rampage, San Miguel Beer ambushed Barangay Ginebra, 89-72, last night to seize a 2-0 lead in their PBA All-Filipino Cup title series at Philsports.

Ildefonso opened fire in the second half, hitting 15 points in the third quarter alone to break open an otherwise tight game and send the Beermen just two games away from the title.

Now, the Beermen are holding an almost insurmountable lead in the best-of-seven series, putting the Gin Kings to a situation where only one team was able to survive.

Ironically, when Toyota recovered from 0-2 to win the 1982 Reinforced conference, the legendary team did it at the expense of San Miguel.

San Miguel guns for 3-0 in Game 3 tomorrow with Ginebra hard-pressed to adjust at the Philsports.

Last night, the Gins failed to correct their previous mistake of trying to win the game on sheer speed.

Sure, Mark Caguioa clicked in the first half by hitting all his five shots – including a triple – but the rookie's fire soon faded along with their veterans who can't do anything right.

"They shot very well in the first half and we thought maybe in the second half they won't shot that well," said SMB coach Jong Uichico. "We took advantage when their shooting faltered."

That was when Ildefonso started to find his range, creating a glitch in the Gins' defense as SMB outscored Ginebra 25-15 in the third. Ildefonso finished with a career-high 32 points.

Earlier, Pop Cola salvaged something from a gloomy conference by stopping Shell, 83-75, and picking up the third-place trophy.

Though the Panthers started out the conference as favorites – considering the sheer depth of their bench – coach Chot Reyes said they have nothing to be ashamed of.

SMB 89 – Ildefonso 32, Seigle 26, Belasco 8, Racela 8, Victoria 7, Lago 6, Duat 2, Pena 0, Mustre 0, Mente 0, Abuda 0.

GINEBRA 72 – Caguioa 19, Calpito 13, Limpot 12, David 11, Meneses 7, Magtulis 6, Lago 2, Helterbrand 2, Ong 0, Crisano 0.

Quarters: 21-19, 43-45, 68-59, 89-72.

POP COLA 83 – Hatfield 20, Juinio 17, Antonio 13, Morano 9, Abarrientos 7, Ballesteros 7, Asaytono 5, Gamboa 3, Jose 2.

SHELL 75 – Marzan 13, Wainwright 11, Hrabak 11, Jackson 10, Esplana 10, Singson 8, Dela Cruz 6, Lim 4, Dualan 2, Telan 0, Del Rosario 0.

Quarters: 17-18, 41-39, 58-56, 83-75.

GIV battles Ateneo-Pioneer

STANDINGS	W	L
Shark	8	0
Ana Freezer	6	1
Welcoat	4	3
PharmaQuick	4	3
GIV Soap	4	3
Ateneo-Pioneer	2	4
Hapee	3	5
Montaña	2	6
Osaka	0	8

GAMES TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
3:30 p.m.—Univ. of Assumption vs UP
5:30 p.m.—GIV Soap vs Ateneo-Pioneer

GIV BEAUTY Soap seeks to fortify its Group A quarterfinals bid when it clashes with Ateneo-Pioneer today in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

The Soap Makers badly need a win in order to stay ahead of closest pursuers PharmaQuick and titleholder Welcoat Paints. GIV, Pharmaquick and Welcoat are sporting similar 4-3 win-loss slates.

Shark Energy Drink, still unbeaten in eight games, and Ana Freezer (6-1) are already assured of slots in Group A, which will be composed of the top four squads at the end of the single-round eliminations.

The GIV-Ateneo-Pioneer tussle is set at 5:30 p.m. The curtain-raiser features a PYBL game between University of Assumption and University of the Philippines.

Swingman Edwin Bacani, Egay Billones, Marlon Legaspi and Francis Sanz banner GIV's attack against Ateneo-Pioneer, which hopes to bounce back after a shocking 72-56 loss to Hapee last Tuesday.

Ateneo is banking on Rich Alvarez, Rainier Sison, Andrew Cruz, Enrico Villanueva and Eldrick Ferrer.

Dennis U. Eroa

SPORTSWATCH

Trail Blazers fire Dunleavy

ORTLAND, Oregon—Mike Dunleavy was fired as coach of the Portland Trail Blazers, taking the fall for an underachieving team that failed to win a playoff game despite an NBA-record $89.7 million payroll. Dunleavy met with team president and general manager Bob Whitsitt for about three hours Tuesday, and Whitsitt announced the coach's dismissal during an evening news conference. The Blazers, plagued by suspensions and infighting, lost 17 of their final 25 games, including a 3-0 sweep by the Los Angeles Lakers in the first round of the Western Conference playoffs. *AP*

Toby's opens at Glorietta 2

TOBY'S, the first interactive sports superstore in the country, opened recently at the 3rd level of Glorietta 2 Ayala Center in Makati. The store was designed to simulate the experience of being inside a major sports venue with interactive features such as the mini basketball court, billiards area and the web kiosks for virtual sports games and Internet surfing. It features Toby's Shootout where it allows customer to play Stop and Pop and the Three-Point King. Toby Claudio said Toby's will give special prizes for players with the best scores.

Laroa fights Lunas tomorrow

FORMER RP junior flyweight champion Lito Laroa fights Rolly Lunas of Camarinese Sur tomorrow in the main event of a fight card promoted by Marick Neighborhood Association (Mana) and Lazaro's Trading in cooperation with Jun Sarreal. It will be the 17-year-old Lunas' first time to fight over 10 rounds. Lunas has won his first seven bouts, six by knockout. Benquet's Buddy Salvador tangles with Bacolod's Vic Galme in the 8-round 126-pound supporting bout.

Duckpin bowling winners known

NSBA and Incirba produced big games to bag the men's and ladies' team crown in the recent 26th Grand National and 8th Youth duckpin bowling championships at the Puyat Sports Center in Manuela. NSBA toppled Ariba-Guys, 336-330, while Incirba whipped D'Friendly Diamonds, 332-314, in the centerpiece event of the tournament hosted by PHIDBC and supported by the Philippine Olympic Committee. Other winners were Bert Sales and Baby Villamil, men's and ladies' A/B singles, respectively; Edwin Cruz and Maidly Marcelino, men's and ladies' C singles; Dino Ilustrisimo, Masters; Sonny Boy Franco and Roschelle Palma, boys' and girls' singles; and Roger Nuñez senior.

Lakers beat Kings, take 2-0 lead

LOS ANGELES—Shaquille O'Neal had 43 points, 20 rebounds and three blocked shots as Los Angeles beat Sacramento and took a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference semifinal series.

The defending champion Lakers extended their winning streak to a season-high 13 games-the final eight of the regular season and the first five of the playoffs.

Kobe Bryant added 27 points, nine rebounds and five assists, and Horace Grant had 10 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers.

Chris Webber led the Kings with 22 points and 18 rebounds, but was only 9-of-26 from the field.

Peja Stojakovic added 20 points, all but six in the fourth quarter, and Bobby Jackson scored 14 for the Kings.

Game 3 of the best-of-seven series is Friday in Sacramento. In Milwaukee, Ray Allen's offense and Sam Cassell's defense lifted the Milwaukee Bucks to a 91-90 victory over the Charlotte Hornets Tuesday night in Game 2 of their Eastern Conference semifinal series.

Allen had 28 points and a career playoff-high nine assists, and Cassell did an outstanding job of defending Baron Davis as Milwaukee took a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven series. Game 3 is Thursday night in Charlotte. *AP*

76ers vs Raptors on '9'

VIVA Vintage Sports will telecast Game Two between the Philadelphia 76ers and the Toronto Raptors today at 12 noon on RPN-9, with a replay at 5:30 p.m. on IBC-13.

Merville Park tops Intervillage

MERVILLE Park topped the first phase of the last of four sector qualifiers lined up in the Alaxan Intervillage golf series as it scored 280 Stableford points to beat the BF Homes and rule the Intervillage South at Wack Wack's east course Monday.

The Merville Park golfers came through with superb scoring under tough playing conditions that Jose Basa's 30 points, which could've easily counted for the other teams' scores, didn't counts in the 12-to-play, eight-to-count format event sponsored by Alaxan.

Gilbert Arcilla led Merville Park with 37 points with John Paul Jota tossing in 36 and Joel Dayrit, Edgardo Hugo, Lloyd Evangelista and Roger Dayrit each firing 35 points for the team.

Nancy Lopez fails

DULUTH, Georgia —Nancy Lopez is a Hall of Famer, the winner of 48 tournaments, the player who probably did more to popularize women's golf than any other. It wasn't enough to land a spot in the U.S. Women's Open. *AP*

Celestino, De Dios advance at Rizal

ITF East-Asia veterans Nestor Celestino Jr. and Nico Riego de Dios downed separate rivals yesterday to advance in the boys' 16-under second round of the Enervon Cup Age Group Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The third-ranked Celestino outplayed Paulino Sianson, 6-2, 6-1, while the fifth-seeded De Dios trounced James Soldivillo, 6-2, 6-2.

In other matches, No. 4 Valjames Villanueva clobbered Zedrick Battad, 6-3, 6-4; No. 7 Michael Basco defeated Bryan Santamaria, 6-0, 6-0; No. 8 Boris Jan Chaves rallied past Daryl Espino, 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (8); and Laurance Magaway blanked JR Dimayuga, 6-0, 6-0.

UST posts 2nd in Martin Cup

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas' Tigers streaked to their second victory in the 7th Fr. Martin Cup invitational basketball tournament yesterday by routing Philippine Christian University (Dasmariñas), 80-45, at the PCU gym.

Powered by Emerson Oreta and Derrick Hubalde, the Tigers had little difficulty matching the frontrunning card of idle Far Eastern University in Group A of the cagefest sanctioned by the Basketball Association of the Philippines led by Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat II and sponsored by Agfa, Photo Plus, Red Bull and SMART-Piltel.

San Beda B trimmed St. Jude, 74-71, in another senior match, while defending women's champion Adamson cruised to its third straight win by beating UST A, 43-33, in the opener.

UPHR whipped Aquinas, 66-55, in a junior contest.

Sampras, Agassi lose

ROME –Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi lost yesterday in the first round of the Italian Open. Sampras fell first, losing to Israel's Harel Levy, who completed the 7-5, 2-6, 6-4 victory over his "idol" that began Monday before a rain suspension. Agassi, who has never won in Rome, followed on the shuffling heels of Sampras' center-court exit by losing, 6-3, 6-3, to Spain's Alex Calatrava in just 69 minutes. **AP**

A shot in the arm

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE REAL beneficiaries of RA 9064 are the athletes who are more in need of money than those who are financially well-off such as bowling legend Paeng Nepomuceno and swimmer Ral Rosario, a successful businessman in his own right.

Among these athletes in need of immediate assistance are Olympics silver medal winner Anthony Villanueva, who is half-paralyzed; Inocencia Solis, fastest woman of Asia in 1958 who is stricken with severe diabetes; and 1951 Asian Games high jump gold medalist Andres Franco, who could hardly walk after a stroke.

Villanueva, now 57-years-old, is the most hard up among these neglected athletes. The winner of the silver medal in boxing at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, Anthony was forced to seek financial assistance after suffering a massive stroke last July. The first to come to his rescue was Philip Juico, former chair of the Philippine Sports Commission, who solicited the help of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Also, the PSC, headed by chair Carlos "Butch" Tuason, shouldered Anthony's hospital bills and doctors' fees, apart from providing the poor boxer with a wheelchair and free physical rehabilitation program at the Philippine Center for Sports Medicine.

"It's just our humble way of helping a great Olympian," Tuason said.

Months before, Anthony, then already cash-strapped, offered to sell his Olympic medal just to survive, evoking memories of Jesse Owens, who, finding himself in dire need of money, offered his Berlin Olympic gold medals for sale. When Owens was asked why he had to do it, he said bluntly: "You can't eat gold medals."

In the case of Villanueva, the boxer need not despair anymore: funds will be forthcoming soon with the recent signing of RA 9064 by President Macapagal. Also called the "Sports Benefits and Incentives Act of 2001," the landmark measure will grant cash rewards to outstanding Filipino athletes, notably Olympic and Asian Games medal winners. In the Olympics, the cash incentives are P5 million for gold, P2.5M for silver and P1.5M for bronze while in the Asiad the breakdown is P1M for gold, P500,000 for silver and P100,000 for bronze.

RA 9064, which is retroactive to 1950, will also reward winners of team competitions, but the corresponding amounts shall be divided equally among the team members. This amended version of the sports incentives bill was authored principally by Reps. Gilberto Duavit and Ranjit Shahani. The cash incentives will come from an initial outlay of P175M.

"Our athletes have consistently proven their worth in international competitions despite having poor training facilities and the meager support of the government," said Shahani.

"To compensate them for all that they have done for the country, we in Congress wanted to give these athletes something in return."

The passage of the sports incentives bill will certainly boost the morale of the athletes who will now strive harder to achieve excellence, knowing that their efforts will be richly rewarded. And of course, the champions of the past are equally elated because they will finally get their just rewards.

Derby today

ONLY five entries out of 39 posted two victories each on Tuesday to lead today's qualifiers of the "11th Ucap Phoenix TR/EGT Stingers 6-Cock Derby" at Mandaluyong Coliseum. More than 45 fights are lined up beginning at 6 p.m. with Sagupaan Super Feeds and Lakpue Drug Inc. as sponsors.

The frontrunners are Palawan sportsman Mauro Prieto (Anito BM), former ambassador Danding Cojuangco (Bumble Bee Balbina), Alex Tang (Guts and Glory 1), derby co-hosts Mario Villamor and Tito Reyes (Pangarap Phoenix TR) and OPMI head Vic Yu (King Boxer).

For other inquiries, call 534-4110, 531-4003 and 531-4005.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO
BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Don Benito 2. True To Life/Privately Owned 3. Altron 4. Perry's Will

Race 2—1. Dragon Lover 2. Cuadro De Alas 3. Big Red Apple 4. Point of Destiny

Race 3—1. Mrs. Big 2. Regimental Lass 3. Queen Storm 4. Memorandum

Race 4—1. Mr. Purao 2. Absolute Power 3. October Sky 4. Kitana

Race 5—1. Be Ready 2. Majestic Ruler 3. Magnicolo

Race 6—1. Miggy 2. Mark's Treasure 3. Profitable 4. Striking Bouncy

Race 7—1. Houdini 2. Ang Seaman 3. Samahan

Race 8—1. Ringer Kid 2. Red Hahn 3. Agarra Pinche 4. Royal Harvest

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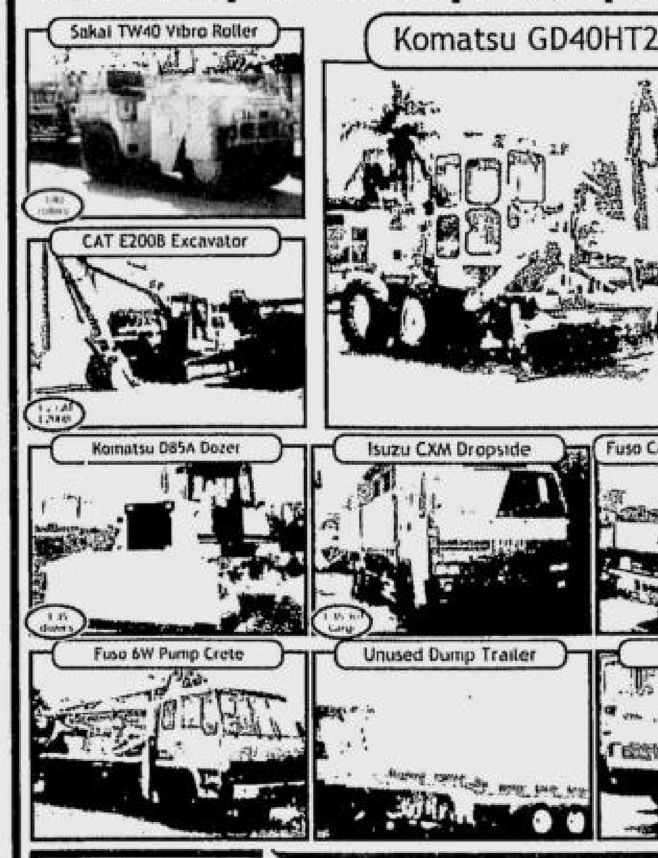

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COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

GOLF: PGA Compaq Classic of New Orleans, Final Round at 8 a.m. (r), Highlights at 11:30 p.m. on Star Sports

TENNIS: ATP USTA Men's Clay Court, Finals at 10 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

PSC selects 20 pool members in Laoag

TWENTY graduates of the Third Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) Summer Youth Training Camp have been found worthy of inclusion to the national developmental pool by trainers from the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association (Patafa) and Philippine Amateur Swimming Association (Pasa).

The athletes, with their records in their respective events in the performance trials at the tailend of the 22-day camp, were announced yesterday during colorful closing rites at the sprawling Marcos Sports Stadium in Laoag City.

Athletics: Joba Botana, Vilma Butac, Hanna Erika Sia, Rosalyn Alonzo, Sharon Calventas, Recson Madrid, Allaloid Lumabao, Ravin Dalog, Melchor Ayon-Ayon and Tyrone Ng.

Swimming: Henrico Jose, Ma. Isabela Casihan, John Bryle Zapanta, Dominique Balinas, Sadeg Neihum, Angela Luz Tuble, James Guinto, Frances Ayra de Guzman, Raymond Montebon and Doren Marie Peronilla.

PSC Chairman Carlos D. Tuason and Commissioner Amparo "Weena" Lim, the project director, impressed on the athletes not to forget the training camp's role in shaping their future.

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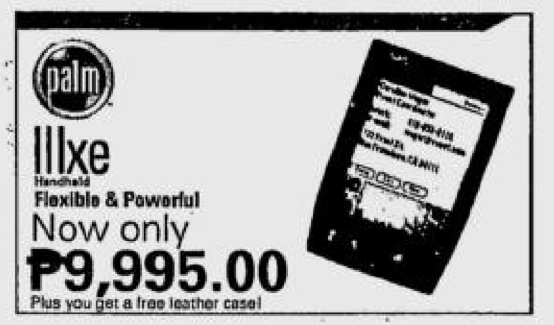
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Suspect in robbery-bombing captured

By Alcuin Papa

A SUSPECTED member of the "Martilyo Gang," said to be behind a series of mall blasts, the latest of which hit the Araneta Shopping Complex in Cubao, Quezon City, was arrested yesterday afternoon in Parañaque.

Supt. Ronald Estilles, Parañaque police chief, identified the suspect as Aratue Colintang, alias "Arthur," 28, a native of Buluan, Maguindanao and resident of 6427 Tramo Street, Barangay San Dionision, Parañaque.

Parañaque and Caloocan police arrested Colintang at his residence around 2 p.m. yesterday.

Estilles said they received information that Colintang was one of those who held up the Jewel Square jewelry store at the Ever Gotesco Mall Grand Central in Caloocan City on April 29.

To elude pursuing lawmen, Martilyo gang members resorted to their modus operandi—they lobbed a fragmentation grenade into a crowd of shoppers, injuring 36 people.

Police also tagged Colintang as one of the gang members who robbed the same store on June 11, 1999.

For that offense, Colintang was charged with robbery and multiple injuries before Caloocan Judge Victorino Alvaro.

But that case was dismissed after the shop owner reportedly refused to cooperate in the investigation.

The gang last hit a jewelry shop inside the Farmers Plaza mall at the Araneta Shopping Complex in Cubao on May 6, where they threw a grenade and injured 34 people.

One of the gang men also shot security guard Freddie Pascua of Novaliches, Quezon City.

Police are now trying to find out whether Colintang was part of the group that carried out the bloody robbery last year at the ITM Shopping mall in Baclaran, Parañaque, where one of the gang members died in a shootout with police.

Police blamed the Martilyo Gang for carrying out three other jewelry heists last year in Pasay City and Manila, including the one at the Tutuban Shopping mall in Divisoria.

Man dies after beating for putting up posters

By Jerome Aning

MANILA police are investigating the death of a 50-year-old man whom unidentified men allegedly beat up for putting up posters of a congressional candidate in Sampaloc early Tuesday morning.

Antonio Trilles, a resident of 638 V. G. Cruz St., Sampaloc, lapsed into a coma and died around 8 a.m. yesterday at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center in Sta. Cruz, Manila, police said.

The Western Police District homicide section invited for questioning one Danilo Isidro, *kagawad* of Barangay 547, whom Trilles' relatives said was the one who led a group of men in beating up Trilles around 3 a.m. Tuesday.

Trilles and his companions were posting the campaign posters of reelectionist Rep. Rudy Bacani of the city's fourth district along H. Ventura and Sobriedad streets when they were accosted by the *kagawad's* group.

SPO4 Solomon Bataller and SPO3 Ernesto Jose of the homicide section said that during the beating, Trilles lost consciousness after his head hit the pavement.

Before police took him in for interrogation, Isidro told reporters that Trilles merely slipped.

He claimed he only chided the group of Trilles for being noisy, but Trilles grew mad and punched Isidro.

MJ'S goodies include "Mark" detergent powder and other grocery items. E. SARMIENTO

MJ giving away cash, goodies to residents, says his rival

Gerald G. Lacuarta with Marionne Acabado

MANILA congressional candidate Mark Jimenez, once described as one of former President Joseph Estrada's richest friends, was accused yesterday of buying votes with cash and bags of groceries in the city's six district.

One of the items allegedly being distributed to residents by so-called "Angels of Mark Jimenez" was a "herbal detergent powder" with the brand "Mark."

Incumbent 6th district Rep. Rosenda Ann Ocampo, whose father Pablo Ocampo is challenging Jimenez for the congressional seat, filed a petition with the Commission on Elections seeking to disqualify the former Estrada adviser for vote-buying.

MJ/ A24

Two jewel thieves bagged while fighting over loot

By Jerome Aning

TWO men suspected of robbing a jeweler of about P1.9-million worth of jewelry last week in Quezon City were caught fighting over their loot Tuesday afternoon in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

A mobile patrol unit spotted suspects Water Tuazon, 30, married, of 4667 Pag-asa St. in Sta. Mesa; and Alexander Navarro, 41, of 3061 Interior 19 Cordillera St., Bacood, Sta. Mesa quarreling and brandishing knives at each other on a sidewalk near the intersection of Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard and V. Mapa Street at about 2 p.m. on Tuesday, according to Supt. Napoleon Pascua, Western Police Districts Station 8 commander.

Insp. Cecilio Banzagales said the two were holding knives and were screaming and calling each other "cheat" and "greedy."

Banzagales said one of the suspects was about to lunge at the other when policemen surrounded them.

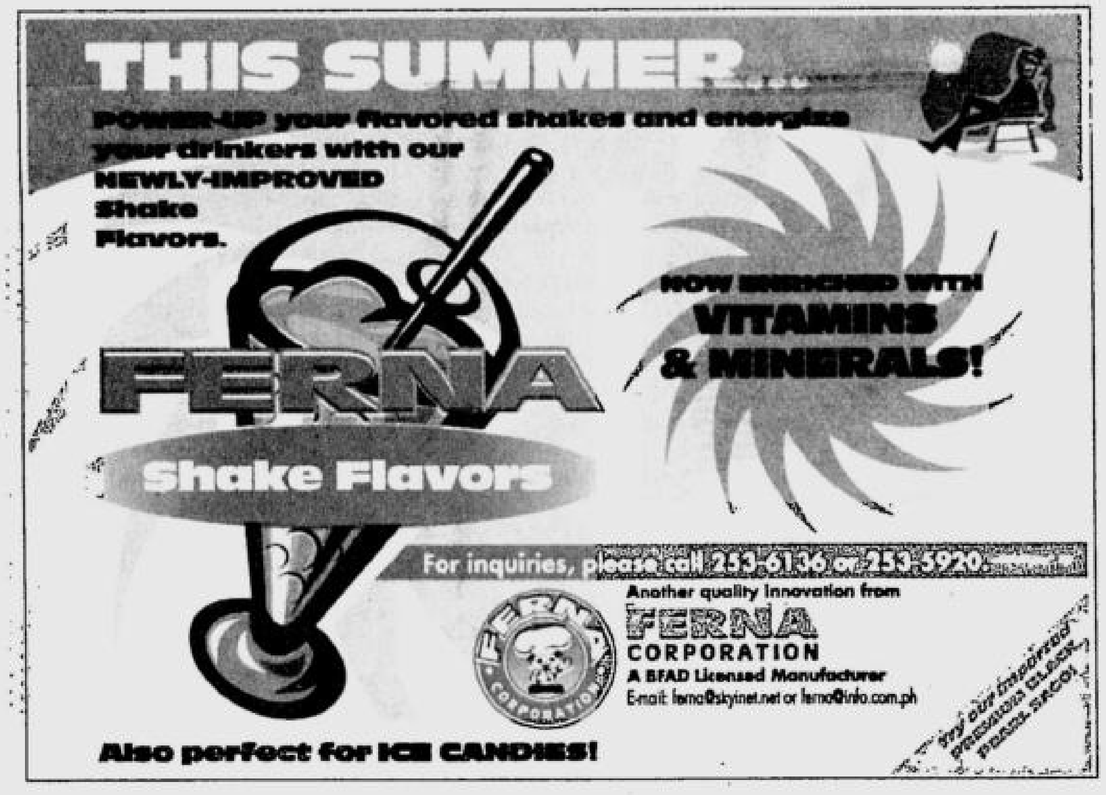
When searched by police, the suspects were found with jewelry stashed in their bags.

Police said the two looked nervous and stammered when asked to explain where they got the jewelry. They were then brought to police Station 8.

Police first thought the suspects were involved in the robbery of a jewelry shop at the Virra Mall in Greenhills, San Juan at the height of the fire that razed the complex over the weekend.

A check with other police districts, however, showed the suspects were the ones tagged as responsible for the robbery in the house of jeweler Alajudin Marijun on N. Domingo Street in Cubao last week, police said.

The suspects were then charged with illegal possession of deadly weapons at the Manila City prosecutor's office. They were later transferred to the Central Police District in Quezon City where they would be charged with robbery.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Tourist shot by Ermita holdup men

AN AMERICAN tourist is in critical condition after he was shot by unidentified men who were trying to rob him in Ermita, Manila early yesterday morning.

Rich Tuarx, 56, a truck driver who was staying at Room 325 of the Cherry Blossom Hotel on Padre Faura Street, is under treatment at the Manila Doctors Hospital on United Nation Avenue for a gunshot wound in the back.

Investigation showed that Tuarx was on Jorge Bocobo Street at the back of the hotel around 4:45 a.m., when two men approached him from behind and held his arms.

Tuarx fought back, police said, until one of the men shot him once with a handgun, said SPO2 Mario Teneros of the Western Police District Station 5.

The two men fled the scene emptyhanded and boarded a passenger jeepney that went toward Taft Avenue, police said.

The wounded American ran back to Cherry Blossoms. Hotel supervisor Gild de la Rosa brought him to the hospital.

At the MDH, the victim told SPO2 Teneros that he could not identify his attackers because the place where he was attacked was dark.

Myla Torres, JP Andaquig

Cops arrest starlet's mom

THE MOTHER of movie starlet Mia Nolasco was arrested by Central Police District members late Tuesday afternoon after she failed to appear in court for a hearing last week.

Police picked up Ma. Regina Nolasco, 42, of No. 60 Main Horseshoe Village, Quezon City, at 5: 20 p.m. Tuesday. She was, however, released yesterday morning after posting a P2,000 fine.

PO2 Jojo Miranda said Nolasco was arrested after she failed to show up at the sala of Judge Augustus Diaz of the Quezon City Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 37 where she is facing a civil suit.

Court records show that Adoracion Jacusalem, the landlady of the starlet's mother, filed an ejectment case against the Nolascos following their alleged failure to pay some P112,000 in rental fees.

Andrea Trinidad-Exchavez

Clubbed dead

DRIVER Teodorico de Guzman, 47, died Sunday morning, just hours after he was clubbed on the head while he slept in a parked passenger jeepney in Tondo, Manila.

Police said De Guzman was sleeping in a jeepney parked in front of the house of his friend Jovel Castro on Franco Street in Tondo after drinking with Castro, Nestor "Toto" Lao and a certain "Panto."

The other men said that at 3:20 a.m., De Guzman woke up with a shriek and cried that blood was oozing from his head. They brought him to the Mary Johnston Hospital, also in Tondo, but he died around 11:20 a.m.

Doctors said De Guzman had a deep cut on the right temple which they said could have been inflicted by a hard metallic object.

Jeusa Raflores

2 more bolt from Pasay jail

By Alcuin Papa, Allison Lopez, Lorraine Santos

TWO men escaped from the Pasay City Jail yesterday, a week after 16 other inmates broke out of the same prison in almost the same manner.

Jail guards identified the latest to escape as Wilfredo Leonzanida, 35, of Apelo Cruz Street, Malibay, and Juancho Gutierrez, 31, of Taft Avenue, Pasay City.

Leonzanida and Gutierrez were detained in the jail's cell number 1 for assault and robbery charges.

Senior Supt. Augusto Retumban, newly installed chief warden of the Pasay City Jail, said the escape occurred about 3 a.m. yesterday.

He said the prisoners sawed off the bars of the window of their third-floor cell. Workers at a nearby construction site reportedly gave the metal saw to the inmates, authorities said.

After they sawed off the window bars, the two lowered themselves close to the ground by using a rope. They also eluded jail guards who chased them briefly.

The daring escape was accomplished despite the tightening of jail security following the escape of 16 other prisoners on April 28.

Superintendent Retumban said poor security conditions in the jail emboldened inmates to escape. But he said he has already taken steps to rectify this by ordering that cement blocks be placed between the bars of cell windows.

Routine checks would now be conducted on an hourly basis rather than every eight hours, he said.

On April 28 at about 10 p.m., 16 minors escaped from the Pasay City Jail by sawing off the bars of their cell windows.

Since then, 10 of the inmates have either surrendered or were caught by police.

Coup financiers report a bum steer

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IT SEEMS the reporter who wrote the story that certain Chinese-Filipino businessmen funded the May Day riot outside Malacañang was given a bum steer by her source.

The story, which was the **Inquirer's** banner headline yesterday, listed 18 Chinoys as the biggest contributors to the abortive "power grab." They are supposedly friends and supporters of deposed President Erap and senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson. They reportedly contributed P500 million to fund the overthrow of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The source of the story was supposedly an intelligence report submitted to Philippine National Police Chief Leandro Mendoza.

(The reporter concerned gave an explanation to the editors last night but said she could not have it published because she could not go back on the word she gave to a high-ranking police officer.—Ed.)

***

But Mendoza denied ever having received such a report. He told this corner he had ordered an investigation to identify the source or sources of the report.

In yesterday's banner story, Mendoza was quoted as having ordered an investigation of the alleged contributors. They could be liable for "grand conspiracy," the PNP chief was quoted in the report as having said.

In a phone interview from Davao City, where he was having an inspection trip, Mendoza told this columnist he never issued any order investigating anybody for allegedly funding the May Day riots.

Back in the days when I was still a police reporter, we had a vulgar but very descriptive word to describe a story that never took place. The abbreviation for it is: SS. It's Tagalog slang describing the act of playing with oneself.

***

The story has caused untold suffering to several of my Chinoy friends whose only crime is that they've had personal dealings with Estrada.

Take, for example, a prominent Chinoy who's a big exporter of ready-made suits to the US (he doesn't want his name mentioned here). He admits friendship with Erap but he says he doesn't mix business with politics. "I'm a businessman, Mon. I don't take part in partisan politics."

This Chinoy businessman also happens to be a close friend of President Macapagal-Arroyo. "So, why would I fund a venture," he said, "to unseat a friend from her position?"

***

Jolly Ting, identified in yesterday's story as Jolly Tieng, is a friend to everybody who is somebody—politicians, big business men, ranking police officers and newsmen.

Why would Ting, who owns Pegasus nightclub on Quezon Avenue, Quezon City (not Lexus as reported), contribute a substantial amount to a fund to destabilize the government.

"No businessman in his right mind would ever take part in destabilizing the government," Ting told me.

***

Kim Wong, owner of a chain of restaurants at the Luneta seafront, called me from Hong Kong, saying: *"Bakit dinadamay na naman ako nila? Wala akong kinalaman diyan*, Mon (Why are they again linking me to the destabilization plot. I had nothing to do with it)," he said.

Wong, who admits campaigning for Lacson and reelectionist Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, has been linked to the drug trade by Atienza's rival, former Interior Secretary Alfredo Lim. Curiously, Wong was Lim's campaigner when he ran for president in the 1998 elections.

My sources in the PNP intelligence say Lim is referring to another Chinese-Filipino guy with the same name.

***

Another fellow mentioned in the "intelligence report" was multimillionaire Douglas Lu Ym, known as the country's "coconut king." He reportedly gave money to the coup plotters.

I can vouch for this guy Lu Ym, who's been my friend for many years. Although he and Erap became friends through businessman Danding Cojuangco, Lu Ym would never involve himself in destabilizing the government. He's too preoccupied with his many businesses and playing golf.

***

Those guards at Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, where Erap and his son Jinggoy are being detained have made a martyr out of former First Lady Loi Estrada.

The guards can't be blamed for the thorough body search on Loi and daughter Jackie. They were just following orders from their superiors; these guys are to be blamed.

Por dios, por santo naman! Please respect the dignity of the position that Loi formerly held—that of First Lady of the land.

If GMA would become an ex-president, would you guys also treat her in the same cavalier fashion?

***

Caloocan City Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio is probably the only candidate in the country who doesn't believe in pasting posters to advertise his candidacy to the electorate. Asistio is running for mayor against incumbent Reynaldo Malonzo.

Although Malonzo's posters are seen everywhere in the city, Asistio barely has none.

"My posters are in the hearts of the Caloocan electorate. I have served them well as congressman," he said, "and now is my time to know whether the people appreciate what I have done for them."

That's how confident Asistio is of winning over Malonzo who defeated his brother Macario "Boy" in the 1998 elections.

Disqualification raps filed vs Atienza, Gatchalian son

By Jerry Esplanada and Christian V. Esguerra

REELECTIONIST Manila Mayor Jose "Lito" Atienza Jr. is facing disqualification in connection with the plunder and graft charges filed against him by supporters of his rival, former mayor Alfredo Lim.

In Valenzuela City, the congressional candidate son of Estrada crony William Gatchalian is also facing disqualification before the Commission on Elections after two residents filed a petition alleging he is not a "natural born Filipino citizen."

The charges against Atienza were filed with the Office of the Ombudsman.

But Manila city legal Officer Melchor Monsod, a spokesman for Atienza, said the plunder case is part of the smear campaign being waged by Lim's camp against the incumbent mayor.

Monsod said this is the latest of almost half a dozen cases that Lim's supporters have been filing against Atienza since 1999. He said most of these cases had been dismissed for lack of merit.

Atienza's critics accused him of committing technical malversation of more than P870 million in City Hall funds in 1999 and 2000, among other violations of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

These "documented graft charges" were the basis of the disqualification case filed against Atienza with the Comelec on April 16, according to Lim's supporters.

Atienza "committed technical malversation of public funds due to illegal disbursements, indicating that he benefited therefrom to the tune of not less than P50 million and rendering him liable for criminal prosecution for plunder," said lawyer Jaime Balmas.

In Valenzuela City, Rufino Rubas and Dominga Caronan said businessman William Gatchalian and Ting Dee Hua, the parents of candidate Sherwin Gatchalian, "appeared to have been admitted in the Philippines without any documentary evidence to show that either is a Filipino citizen."

Natural-born Filipino citizenship is among the requirements for members of the House of Representatives under Section 6, Article VI of the Constitution.

Gatchalian is running for representative in the city's first district against lawyer Magtanggol Gunigundo, whose son Magi is seeking a second straight term in the second district.

But Gatchalian said he and his parents are natural-born Filipinos. He said the petitioners, who were his former employees, had been paid by his political opponents as part of a last-ditch effort to derail his chances of winning in the May 14 elections.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, May 10, 2001
4th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 13:13-25
Gospel: Jn 13:16-20

[After Jesus had washed the feet of the disciples he said,] Truly, I say to you, the servant is not greater than his master, nor is the messenger greater than he who sent him. Understand this, and blessed are you if you put it into practice.

I am not speaking of you all, because I know the ones I have chosen and the Scripture has to be fulfilled that says, *The one who shared my table has risen against me.* I tell you this now before it happens, so that when it does happen, you may know that I am He.

Truly, I say to you, whoever welcomes the one I send, welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the One who sent me."

Commentary:

If we have accepted what Jesus had to say and how to speak it, as the One who sent him instructed him, we cannot do otherwise but to be also instructed by Jesus to know what to say and how to speak it. For, this is what discipleship is concerned about: to be as the Master. Humble service has been the meaning of his life and mission. As disciples of Jesus, we do not merely serve. We cannot simply carry the title of being a servant or minister. We are called and enjoined to serve with great humility. Is your service to our country and even to the church so, or is it just one way of self-aggrandizement? We already have too many going on ego trips. Don't contribute more to their number.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (CONTRACTS)—Elements of a contract—It is basic and elementary in this jurisdiction that what determines the validity of a contract, in general, is the presence of the elements constituting the same, namely, (1) consent of the contracting parties; (2) object certain which is the subject matter of the contract; and (3) cause of the obligation which is established. The contract of sale is perfected at the moment there is a meeting of minds upon the thing which is the object of the contract and upon the price. From that moment, the parties may reciprocally demand performance, subject to the provisions of the law governing the form of contracts. Even with a duly executed written document purporting to be a contract of sale, the Court cannot rule that the subject contracts of sale are valid, when the evidence presented in the courts below show that there had been no meeting of the minds between the supposed seller and corresponding buyers of the parcels of land in this case. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Melo, Third Division, Santos v. Mariano, G.R. No. 143325, October 24, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

Valenzuela, Malabon poll officers cry harassment

By Christian V. Esguerra, Mark Isaiah David and Paul Ernest Lazaro

THE ELECTION officers of Valenzuela and Malabon yesterday claimed they have been receiving death threats and they blamed their incumbent mayors.

Valenzuela election officer Adriano Abesamis said an unidentified man has been phoning him daily for three weeks now and telling him in Filipino, "Be prepared when you leave your office."

"The calls are so frequent that I even eat them for lunch," Abesamis said.

He said Valenzuela's reelectionist Emmenuel Carlos and his men had long been "harassing" him for his being "impartial."

Carlos's spokesperson Alex Rosete said the Carlos camp "would not do anything drastic such as issue death threats."

Malabon election officer Armando Mallorca said he, too, has been receiving death threats by phone and text messages since he declared Malabon's cityhood weeks ago.

He said one text message read, "*Bawat pisong kinita mo mula sa ordinaryong plebesito ay dugo mo and katumbas. Malapit na... malapit na ang iyong sentensiya! Mabuhay ang CPP-NPA!*"

He said he got his first threat on April 21 when an unidentified man told him on the phone to be careful and accused him of having doctored the results of the plebiscite on Malabon's cityhood.

Mallorca said the threats could not have been made by communist rebels, but by Malabon politicians who had a grudge against him such as Mayor Amado Vicencio.

He said Vicencio and his men could have been blaming him for the low turnout of voters in the plebiscite.

Vicencio's spokesperson Abby Balatbat could not be reached for comment.

MJ giving . . .

(From page A23)

In an eight-page petition, Ocampo asked the Comelec to disqualify Jimenez as a candidate for congressman in Manila's 6th district and suspend Jimenez's proclamation in the event he wins in the election.

Ocampo said Jimenez gave bags of groceries and cash not only to voters but also to officials of the district's 139 barangays.

"In some instances, it was the respondent himself who delivered the money to the barangay officials and registered voters to promote his candidacy," Ocampo claimed.

She attached to her complaint the testimonies of 11 residents and barangay officials who all claimed to have received either groceries or cash ranging from P500 to P1,000 from Jimenez.

Margie Celis, of Barangay 900 in Bulcan, Sta. Ana, Manila, said that in April, Jimenez gave out P500 each to residents of Dahlia Street while his lieutenants distributed bags of groceries.

Lolita Rolion said Jimenez went to the railroad tracks on Parcel Street in Sta. Mesa and gave P500 to some storeowners in the area. He also handed out P1,000 to a group of youngsters playing cards, said Rolion.

Ocampo said bags of groceries were also distributed in several barangays in Sta. Ana, Pandacan, and Sta. Mesa, particularly among the poor residents. Each bag contained a kilo of brown sugar, a kilo of rice, cans of sardines, corned beef, meat loaf, and the "Mark" detergent.

In a phone interview, Jimenez denied the accusations and called them "black propaganda."

METRO CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Bagatsing to review deals

MANILA mayoral candidate Amado S. Bagatsing yesterday said that if he wins in Monday's election, he would review all contracts and transactions made by incumbent Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Bagatsing was referring to reports that suspected drug lord Kim Wong, said to be a close associate of Atienza, was granted a long-term lease on the Manila government property near the Army and Navy Club.

"This is narco-politics in action," Bagatsing said.

Wong is said to be building a restaurant on the seafront boardwalk.

Bagatsing suspects that Atienza's decision to grant long-term tax holidays to favored companies may have been influenced by Wong.

According to Victor Reyes, former assistant department head of the city assessor's office, Atienza granted tax exemptions of up to 20 years to companies owned by his cronies.

The exemptions are said to have gravely prejudiced Manila taxpayers. The tax holidays are estimated to have resulted in a P200-million loss in city revenues.

Vying for the same position is former mayor Alfredo S. Lim.

Batacan earns endorsements

BATACAN

THE CANDIDACY of law professor Esmera-ldo "Esmy" Batacan, People Power Coalition congressional bet for Pasig City, has been endorsed by several respected figures, including Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and PDP-Laban founder and chair and former defense secretary Renato de Villa.

A political detainee during the martial law years and a human rights advocate, Batacan earned the nod of the major political parties under the PPC, which are Reporma, Aksyon Demokratiko, PDP-Laban, Promdi, Liberal Party.

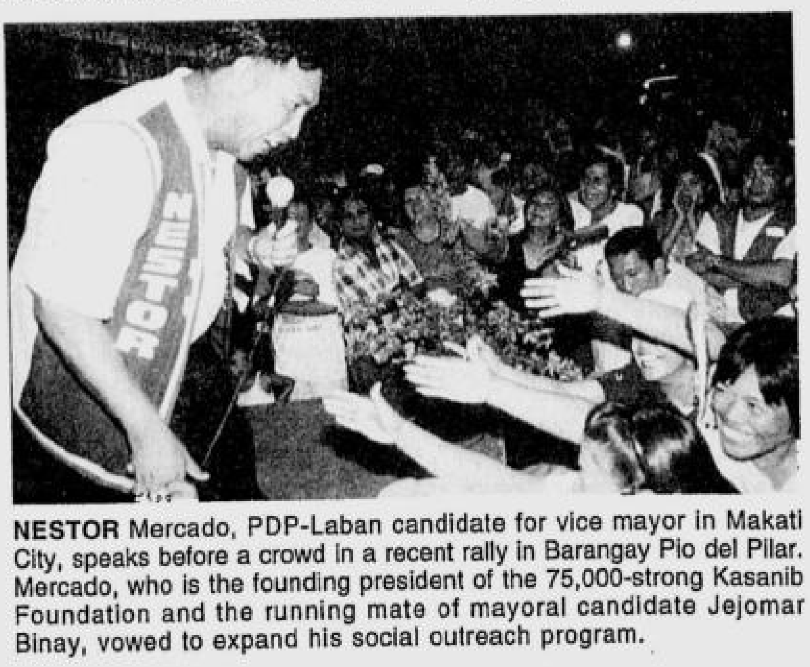
His candidacy was also endorsed by Pampanga Gov. Lito Lapid and Caloocan City Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo, both of whom Batacan and his law firm defended against the charges filed against them by the Estrada government.

In an open letter to Pasig residents, Lapid and Malonzo vouched for Batacan's credibility and integrity and called him "hero of the oppressed."

Pimentel said he has known Batacan since 1975 when the latter was his student at the San Beda College of Law.

"Batacan has mastered local governance and is one of the authors of the implementing rules and regulations of the Local Government Code," Pimentel said. "For this reason, I am sure that he will be an efficient and effective public servant."

Batacan was also deputy secretary general of the League of Provincial Governors and consultant of the Liga ng mga Barangays.



NESTOR Mercado, PDP-Laban candidate for vice mayor in Makati City, speaks before a crowd in a recent rally in Barangay Pio del Pilar. Mercado, who is the founding president of the 75,000-strong Kasanib Foundation and the running mate of mayoral candidate Jejomar Binay, vowed to expand his social outreach program.

SM CINEMA GUIDE

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
2	DOLBY SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	15 MINUTES
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
8	DOLBY SURROUND	MAY ISANG PUSO

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 • 7161416

1	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	DOLBY SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBER
3	DTS	EXIT WOUNDS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	15 MINUTES
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MAY ISANG PUSO
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	MAY ISANG PUSO
2	DOLBY SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
3	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MNUTES
9	DOLBY SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS
10	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
11	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
12	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	SUGAR & SPICE
3	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
4	DOLBY SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	15 MINUTES
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EXIT WOUNDS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
8	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
9	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	DOLBY SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
11	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
12	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	DIVINO
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	15 MINUTES

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	DTS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
9	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
10	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	MAY ISANG PUSO
2	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
4	DOLBY SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
7	DTS	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
10	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
12	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

SM SOUTHMALL 8065488 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EXIT WOUNDS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5	ULTRA SURROUND	MAY ISANG PUSO
6	ULTRA SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
7	ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	15 MINUTES
9	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
10	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	15 MINUTES
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MAY ISANG PUSO

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
2	ULTRA SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
3	ULTRA SURROUND	RECESS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
5	ULTRA SURROUND	ATTACK FORCE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
7	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	RECESS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	THEY NEST
5	ULTRA SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
6	ULTRA SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SUGAR & SPICE
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EXIT WOUNDS
3	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN

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1	15 MINUTES	
2	SOMEONE LIKE YOU	
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST?	
4	THE MEXICAN	

GLORIETTA 4 All Digital Sound

1	EXIT WOUNDS	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	LUCKY NUMBERS	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	15 MINUTES THX	in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	ANATOMY (Phil. Premiere)	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	SUGAR AND SPICE	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	SOMEONE LIKE YOU	in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	SAY IT ISN'T SO	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

Art Film

GREENBELT

1	LUCKY NUMBERS	in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	15 MINUTES	in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	SOMEONE LIKE YOU	in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	Onstage	

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	15 MINUTES THX	in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	SOMEONE LIKE YOU	in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	EXIT WOUNDS	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	LUCKY NUMBERS	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	FINDING FORRESTER	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	SAY IT ISN'T SO
2 (SDDS)	EXIT WOUNDS
3 (DTS)	THE MEXICAN
4 GOLD (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	LUCKY NUMBER
6 GOLD (SDDS)	15 MINUTES
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	FINDING FORRESTER
8	BALIKTARAN
9	NARINIGMONABAANGLATEST
10	SUGAR & SPICE

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	SWEET NPVEMBER
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	DUKE
5	WOMAN ON TOP
6 (DTS)	RESERVE

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	SWEET NOVEMBER
2 (DTS)	RESERVE
3	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA 2000
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	BALIKTARAN
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	MAY ISANG PUSO

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	RESERVE
2	BALIKTARAN
3	15 MINUTES
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	EXIT WOUNDS
5	HALIK NG SERENA

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543 4001

1	BALIKTARAN
2	MAY ISANG PUSO
3	15 MINUTES
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	RESERVE
6	EXIT WOUNDS
7	INIT SA MAGDAMAG
8	MORTAL ENEMY

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010/892.3349

1	SOMEONE LIKE YOU

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	THE MEXICAN
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	
2	BODY TO BODY
3	ANOTHER 9 ½ WEEKS

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	BALIKTARAN
A	EXIT WOUNDS

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	BALIKTARAN
2	BLAIRWITCH
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	BALIKTARAN
5	MAY ISANG PUSO
6	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7 (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8 (SDDS)	LUCKY NUMBER
9 (DOLBY)	15 MINUTES

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	MAY ISANG PUSO

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	BALIKTARAN
3	HALIK NG SERENA
4 (SDDS)	MAY ISANG PUSO
5	15 MINUTES
6 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
7 (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	HALIK NG SERENA
4	MAY ISANG PUSO
5 (SDDS)	RESERVE
6	15 MINUTES
7 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
8	RESERVE

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	15 MINUTES
2	BALIKTARAN
3 (DTS)	MAY ISANG PUSO
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5 (SDDS)	EXIT WOUNDS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	MAY ISANG PUSO

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	MAY ISANG PUSO

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	MAY ISANG PUSO
Lords	BEDROOM SECRET
Jennet	WINASAK

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	MAY ISANG PUSO
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	RESERVE
4	BALIKTARAN

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641 1215

1	
3	HALIK NG SERENA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
2	MAY ISANG PUSO
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	15 MINUTES
5	BALIKTARAN

New Divisoria Mall
CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	MAY ISANG PUSO
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	BALIKTARAN
4	RESERVE
5	EXIT WOUNDS
6	RESERVE

Baclaran LRT
CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
2	MAY ISANG PUSO
3	EXIT WOUNDS
4	
5	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	MADERASO
2	BALIKTARAN
3 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	SAY IT ISN'T SO
2 (DTS)	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
3 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
4	BALIKTARAN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	15 MINUTES
2	BALIKTARAN
3	THE SEDUCER
4 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
2	MADERASO
3 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
4	EXTREME WARRIORS
5	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	BALIKTARAN
2	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
3	THE CROW

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	BALIKTARAN
2	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
3	THE CROW

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	AIR BUD
2	HALIK NG SERENA
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511 9736

1	THE CROW
2	BALIKTARAN
3	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	BALIKTARAN
2 (DTS)	MADERASO

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	BALIKTARAN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	HALIK NG SERENA
2	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
3	BALIKTARAN

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	HALIK NG SERENA
2	THE MEXICAN
3	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
4	EXIT WOUNDS

Berma
tel 879.2168

1	THE WEDDING PLANNER
2	DESTROYER

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	RESERVE
2	BALIKTARAN
3	RESERVE
4	EXIT WOUNDS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	EXIT WOUNDS
2	HALIK NG SERENA
3	BALIKTARAN
4 (DTS ES)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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Joey serves summer music in Malate strip

JOEY whips up a storm this May in Malate with "Joey's Summer Nights" featuring Side A in a first-ever bar tour of Manila's hippest strip, along with Ogie Alcasid, Kuh Ledesma and Randy Santiago.

Metro Manila's No. 1 FM station pairs up with the country's leading band and the biggest names in music to stir up the Malate nightscape for four consecutive weeks.

The tour started May 8 at Nth Degree with Ogie. May 17 is at the Republic of Malate with no less than the diva, Kuh. May 24 will have Randy at Ratsky's. Side A rounds up its never-before-done Malate tour with a performance at Suburbia on May 30 with the help of Ogie and Kuh. Shows start at 9 p.m.

"Joey's Summer Nights" is made possible by Theragram-M, Astring-O-Sol, AMA CC, Oil of Olay, Mastercard, Aegon Life, Sunsilk, Double Mint Gum, BayDresh, FA Deodorants and Forward and Mega Magazines.

NBC brings Sybil and '80s sounds to Manila

TICKETS to NBC Entertainment's '80s dance party "Back to Sybilization" are now available.

The tickets at P300 each entitle holders to a night of non-stop partying, the best '80s music and a special performance by dance diva Sybil, on May 19 at 9 p.m. at the NBC Tent.

Sybil, who first gained recognition through her chart-topping single "Don't Make Me Over," will be performing live in Manila for the first time. She has included in her repertoire "Walk On By," "Make it Easy on Me," "When I'm Good and Ready," "The Love I Lost" and "Let Yourself Go," among others.

Back To Sybilization will also feature pumping mobile music from DJ Joe Montes of GYM Muzika.

Tickets are available on the 9th floor of Jacinta Bldg. 2 in Guadalupe, Makati City.

For reservations and inquiries, call NBC Entertainment at 882-INBC and look for Junie Licaros. Tickets will also be available at the Tent gate on May 19.

"Back to Sybilization" is a presentation of PLDT IDD, Smart Money and Smart Zed in cooperation with Edsa Mail, The Mandarin Oriental which is Sybil's official residence during her Manila visit, and Northwest Airlines, Sybil's official carrier.

ROBINSONS MOVIE WORLD

STATE-OF-THE-ART CINEMAS

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http://www.robinsonsmovieword.com

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ERMITA 536-7809-14

1. EXIT WOUNDS
2. BALIKTARAN
3. SOMEONE LIKE YOU
4. NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5. THE MEXICAN
6. LUCKY NUMBERS
7. 15 MINUTES

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1. 15 MINUTES
2. PILAK
3. MAY ISANG PUSO
4. EXIT WOUNDS
5. NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
6. BALIKTARAN

BACOLOD (034)441-0453

1. SWEET NOVEMBER
2. NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3. THE CROW
4. ANTI TRUST
5. THE SEDUCER
6. EXTREME WARRIORS

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	MAY ISANG PUSO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BALIKTARAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	15 MINUTES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	EXIT WOUNDS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	LUCKY NUMBERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	15 MINUTES
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	EXIT WOUNDS
MIRAMAR	KAMANDAG NG ROSAS / OBJECT OF OBSESION
ODEON	15 MINUTES
ODEON-2	EXIT WOUNDS
ROBEN	BALIKTARAN
TANDEM-1	ALIW MATAMIS NA LASON
TANDEM-2	EVANGELINE 14
TIMES	MS. CONGENIALITY / DEMON GATE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	15 MINUTES
QUEZON-1	EXIT WOUNDS
REMAR	EXIT WOUNDS
REMAR-2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	RECESS
CINEMA-2	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BALIKTARAN
CINEMA-2	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
CINEMA-3	HALIK NG SIRENA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	EXTREME WARRIORS
CINEMA-6	ABAKADA ...INA
CINEMA-7	INIT NG DUGO
CINEMA-8	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE MEXICAN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SUGAR & SPICE
CINEMA-12	SAY IT ISN'T SO
CINEMA-14	BALIKTARAN
CINEMA-15	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SUGAR & SPICE
CINEMA-2	15 MINUTES
CINEMA-3	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-4	SAY IT ISN'T SO
CINEMA-5	LUCKY NUMBERS
CINEMA-6	SOMEONE LIKE YOU

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Movies about mothers

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

SINCE we're honoring our moms on Mothers' Day (May 13) this month, here's a list of movies with mothers as their main or supporting characters that can help intensify our appreciation for the rewarding albeit complex relationship between mothers and their children:

"Terms of Endearment" by **James L. Brooks**. Wonderful mix of humor and heartache follows the relationship of a mother (**Shirley MacLain**) and daughter (**Debra Winger**) through the years. Consistently offbeat and unpredictable, with exceptional performances by MacLaine, Winger and **Jack Nicholson**. Brooks also wrote the screenplay (based on **Larry McMurtry**'s novel).

"Mother Wore Tights" by **Walter Lang**. One of **Betty Grable**'s most popular movies, about a vaudeville family. Colorful production, costumes, nostalgic songs and an Oscar-winning **Alfred Newman** score. Also starring **Dan Dailey** and **Mona Freeman**.

"The Good Earth" by **Sidney Franklin**. Big Pearl Buck novel recreated in detail, telling story of greed ruining the lives of a simple Chinese farming couple. **Luise Rainier** won an Oscar as **Paul Muni**'s ever-patient wife.

"The Grapes of Wrath" by **John Ford**. Classic Americana about Okies moving from the Dust Bowl to California during the Depression. **Jane Darwell** won a well-deserved Oscar for her performance as a determined family matriarch.

"The Turning Point" by **Herbert Ross**. Two friends who started in ballet are reunited after many years. **Anne Bancroft** is now a star ballerina, while Shirley MacLaine is a housewife and dance teacher whose daughter is embarking on her own ballet career.

"On Golden Pond" by **Mark Rydell**. **Katharine Hepburn** and **Henry Fonda** play the parents of an alienated young woman (**Jane Fonda**), and they work out their difficult relationship during a summer at their lakefront home.

"Places in the Heart" by **Robert Benton**. Affectionate look at life in a small town during the Depression. **Sally Field** is exceptional as a young widow determined to survive as a cotton farmer.

"Mrs. Miniver" by **William Wyler**. Moving drama about middle-class English family learning to cope with war. **Greer Garson**'s performance in the title role was rewarded with an Oscar.

"My Left Foot" by **Jim Sheridan**. **Daniel Day-Lewis** plays an artist-writer born with cerebral palsy. **Brenda Fricker** is brilliant as his mother, who helps him not only to survive but triumph over his debilitating handicap. One of the film's best moments comes when the boy, written off by many as similar to a dumb animal, slowly picks up a piece of chalk with his left foot (the only part of his body he's able to control), then determinedly scrawls his first word "Mother."

"The Piano" by **Jane Campion**. A Scottish woman (**Holly Hunter**) and her illegitimate daughter (**Anna Paquin**) arrive in New Zealand for an arranged marriage to a farmer (**Sam Neill**).

"Postcards from the Edge" by **Mike Nichols**. Brilliantly cinematic rendering of **Carrie Fisher**'s novel about a young woman (**Meryl Streep**) falling prey to drugs while trying to pursue an acting career—in the shadow of a famous show-business mother (Shirley MacLaine).

"A Cry in the Dark" by **Fred Schepisi**. True story of an Australian woman accused of murdering her own baby.

"Mr. and Mrs. Bridge" by **James Ivory**. **Paul Newman** and **Joanne Woodward** play a strait-laced couple affected by the demands of their growing children.

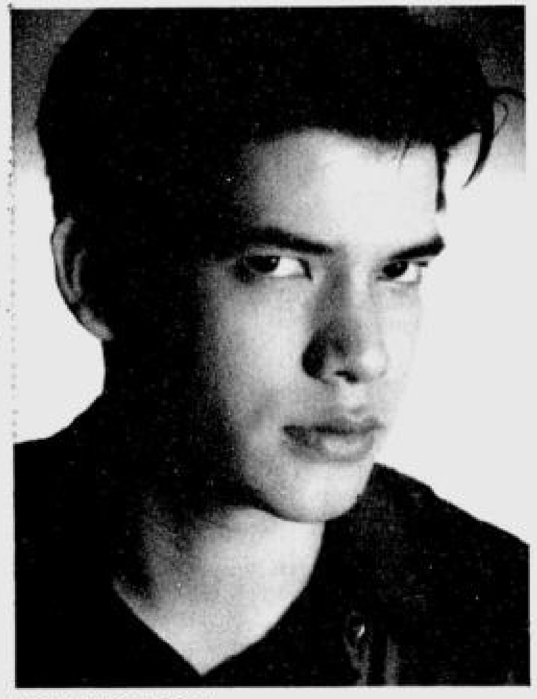
"Torch Song Trilogy" by **Paul Bogart**. Anne Bancroft plays a gay man's smothering mother.

"Home for the Holidays" by **Jodie Foster**. About a woman at loose ends who flies home to spend Thanksgiving with her wildly dysfunctional family.

"Heartbreakers" by **David Mirkin**. **Sigourney Weaver** and **Jennifer Love Hewitt** plays a mother and daughter who love men and leave them, fleecing them out of a lot of money.

"The Road Home." A Chinese businessman returns to his native village for his father's funeral, but he disagrees with his mother's insistence on traditional burial rites. To make sense of her stubbornness, he pieces together the tale of his parents' courtship (shown in flashbacks).

I'm not just good looks, says Ced



TORRECARION

THE FACE that launched TV commercials for Cali Shandy, Wrigley's Double Mint Gum and many others, Ced Torrecarion is on his way to becoming one of the most exciting young talents in show business.

At 21, Ced does not want to be known for just his good looks.

"I want to portray challenging roles," he says. "The industry is loaded with pretty-boy-next-door and matinee idol types. So for a change, I want to be known for off-beat roles."

Ced confesses he almost became a priest. But the stars have other plans for him and have derailed his plan to be a man of the cloth. He has decided to work hard to achieve his show business goals.

Ced's career is being managed by ABS-CBN Talent Center and co-managed by Backroom Inc. He has appeared in some of ABS CBN's shows like "Arriba! Arriba!" and "MTB." He is a semi-regular member of the cast of "Tabing Ilog" and has finished an episode for Star Studio Presents where he played one of the lead roles.

Ced spends regular hours at the Premier City Club pumping iron for a more robust physique. He is under the Department of Education, Culture and Sports Kasama, a home study program which enables him to continue his studies despite his hectic schedule.

Last month, Ced went to the United States to do a telenovela with Onemig Bondoc and Bianca Lapus, for release in the US Filipino communities.

Ced is also a product endorser for Ericsson and Bench, of which he is one of the image models.

For inquiries and bookings, call ABS-CBN Talent Center or Backroom Inc. at 435-1120, 435-3808, 435-1098, 435-1108 or fax inquiries at 928-0717.

'Conversations' now airs Wednesdays

"PRIVATE Conversations with Boy Abunda" now has a new time slot—9 to 10 p.m.—over ABS CBN news channel Channel 21.

The show was originally aired Thursdays until this week when it started showing Wednesday with senatorial candidates Solita Monsod and Liwayway Vinzons-Chato. It was also the first time "Private Conversations with Boy Abunda" featured two guests in one show.

One of ANC's top-rating shows, "Private Conversations with Boy Abunda" has done interviews with prominent personalities, including President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in her first studio interview as president of the Republic.

Others who have been featured in "Private Conversations" are Mark Victor Hansen of "Chicken Soup for the Soul" series, Deepak Chopra, Manny Villar, Joker Arroyo, Juan Ponce Enrile, Renato de Villa, Rodolfo Biazon, Juan Flavier, Loren Legarda, Dong Puno, among others.

"Private Conversations" is directed by Bobby Garcia. Executive producer is Nikka Santos.

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4 SAY IT ISN'T SO - P 13 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00	5 LUCKY NUMBERS - P 13 11:30, 1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30, 10:40	6 SOMEONE LIKE YOU - P 13 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

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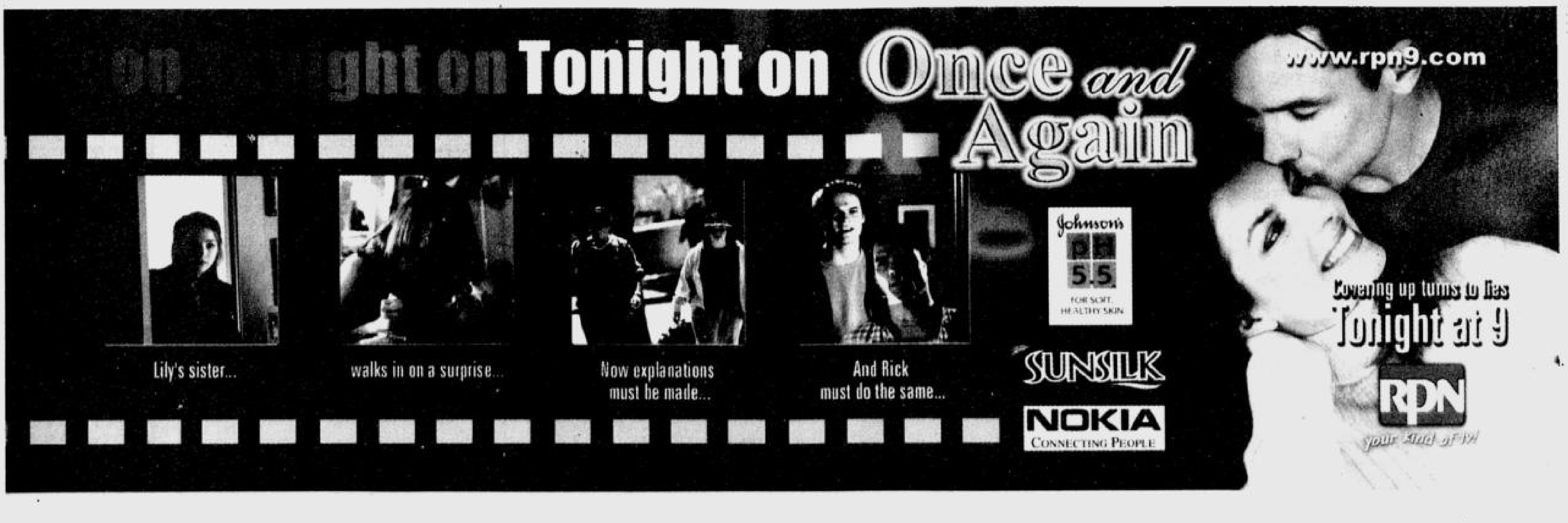
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Gov't tells investors RP back in business

HONOLULU, Hawaii—After sending its former president to jail and going through a period of political instability that sent investors fleeing for cover, the Philippines told the world yesterday that it is back in business.

Senior Philippine officials told bankers and foreign investors ahead of the annual Asian Development Bank meeting here that President Macapagal-Arroyo was firmly in control and focusing on reviving the economy.

The arrest of former President Joseph Estrada, who is to stand trial for corruption next month after being toppled in a popular revolt in January, "attests to the primacy of the rule of law and accountability in our judicial system," Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo said.

Romulo, three other Cabinet members and the Bangko Sentral governor, gave the government's first sales pitch to the outside world a week after Ms Macapagal called out the Army to quell street riots and put down what she described as a power grab by Estrada allies.

Ms Macapagal "is in full control," Romulo said at a country presentation here. "Things are back to normal."

Romulo said the cooling US economy was expected to "weaken" Filipino exports, the main driver of economic growth in recent years, while the El Niño weather phenomenon would affect agriculture, which accounts for a fifth of economic output.

But Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura disputed suggestions that Manila is headed for a balance of payments crisis due to the export slowdown, saying he expected "continued favorable performance this year."

Romulo said "we are maintaining our projected growth rates" of 3.8-4.3 percent in gross domestic product (GDP) this year and 4.9-5.5 percent next year as the government looks for other growth drivers.

Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas told the forum that Ms Macapagal is pinning her hopes on peace negotiations with communist guerrillas and Moro separatists to boost domestic investments in Mindanao, which is wracked by more than three decades of rebellions.

"There is a wide disparity of development among the regions," Canlas said. "The immediate challenge is the development in Mindanao."

Looking further afield, Canlas said the average population growth rate of 2.3 percent over the past several years would be a "real constraint" on reducing poverty, which now afflicts about 32 percent of the nation of 76.4 million.

However, government efforts to improve the economy would lead to "self-correcting factors that would help slow down the population growth rate," he said without elaborating.

Romulo said Manila expected domestic investments to take up the slack in exports, with projected investment growth of between 2.6 and 3.6 percent this year from a 0.8 percent advance last year.

Tourism should also pick up in Mindanao due to the peace negotiations and expected political settlement of the rebellions there, Canlas said.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said the government is committed to address "significant fiscal slippages over the past three years," with the objective of reining in the budget deficit to within 3.8 percent this year and achieve a balanced budget by 2006.

Manila aims to raise revenues to 16.8 percent of gross national product in 2006 from 13.4 percent this year, she added.

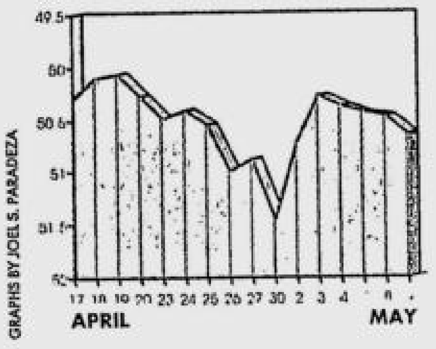
This would be achieved through new tax laws that would expand the excise tax, among others, and through a crackdown on smuggling, organizational reform among tax collection agencies and stronger tax audits as well as a review of fiscal incentives offered to investors.

However, "revenue measures take time" and for the short-term the government is on an austerity program and would abolish redundant state agencies, Boncodin said. *AFP*

INDICATORS

Currencies

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY JOEL S. PARADEZA

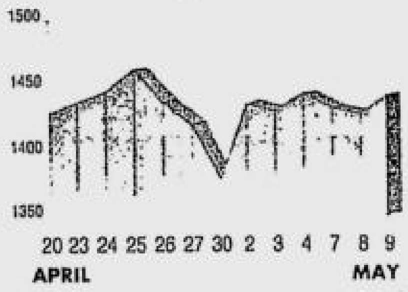
₱50.65 = $1
As of 5 p.m., May 9, 2001

¥121.60 $1
The US dollar was trading at 121.60 as of 5 p.m., May 9, 2001

GOLD: $265.00/265.50
per ounce Hong Kong, May 9, 2001

Stock Market

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares end up

SHARES finished higher yesterday as bargain hunters bought select stocks following recent losses, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 14.49 points, or one percent, at 1,441.77, after shedding 0.3 percent Tuesday. The index lost 1.1 percent in the past two sessions. The thin volume of trades, however, may show the market rally isn't fundamentals-driven, said AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan. The mixed quality of first quarter corporate earnings further curtailed liquidity in the market, Vistan said.

"For us to sustain a positive tone in the market, we need to see a broader recovery in corporate earnings, anchored not on cost-cutting measures but on higher sales," he said.

For the near term, Vistan said the May 14 midterm election will concern the market. Investors remain worried about possible controversy if the government fails to ensure a clean and transparent election.

"The election fever is very high, so we may need to see the smoke clear up first," he said. *AP*

Neda OKs coal imports

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority has approved four more coal shipments from a Chinese supplier, saving the 1,000-megawatt Sual plant from a fuel shortage.

National Power Corp. president Jesus N. Alcordo said coal trading firm Shanxi originally won a contract for six shipments of coal with an option for an additional four, for which Neda gave the go-ahead.

A shipment is equivalent to 60,000 metric tons. All four shipments are intended for the Sual generator in Pangasinan, which is run by independent power producer Mirant Philippines and contracted by Napocor.

Napocor recently turned down further shipments from Indonesian supplier Indomico Mandiri based on complaints about the coal's quality.

Mirant Philippines reportedly did not want any more coal from Indomico because the fuel "did not meet the energy conversion agreement specifications."

The state power firm had also negotiated a contract aside from the one won through a bidding with Shanxi, which was one of six contracts Napocor submitted earlier this week for Neda's approval.

The other contracts involved Australian firms Cumnock and Coal & Allied, Chinese firm Shenhua, and international traders Glencore and Kitadin.

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World electronics slump tugs at Solid Group's bottom line

By Doris C. Dumlao

A SLUMP in global demand for electronics has dragged the bottom line of Solid Group Inc. into the red, prompting the electronics manufacturer to rely on the cable and Internet businesses of its newly acquired unit, the Destiny multimedia group, this year.

Solid Group vice president and chief operating officer Enrique Ligeralde told analysts and stockholders on Tuesday that the company incurred a net loss of around P12 million in the first quarter of the year, reversing a gain of P66.8 million in the same period last year.

This developed as the company's principal customer, Aiwa Co. Ltd. of Japan, ended its manufacturing contract starting December last year.

As a result, Solid Group had to suspend the operations of its wholly owned subsidiary, Kita Corp., as well as its styropor division starting April 15.

Ligeralde said the company would raise fresh funds to beef up the operations of the Destiny group as part of its venture into the cable and Internet businesses.

Solid acquired interests in Destiny Inc. and Destiny Cable Inc., both owned by the family of Joseph and Elena Lim, last year.

He said the company was now awaiting approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission of its plan to offer bonds this year. No amount was disclosed.

Analysts said the company had no choice but to rely on earnings from Destiny considering the slump in its manufacturing contracts.

One analyst said with additional funding and a more aggressive marketing campaign, however, Solid Group's cable and Internet businesses should take off in the near term.

For the full year, Solid Group is expecting to generate P100 million in net profits.

Despite the slowdown in its electronics manufacturing business, Solid Group remains laden with cash. A few years ago, it raised P2.6 billion to P2.7 billion from an initial public offering and has kept proceeds from the offering intact since then.

An analyst estimated that the company was earning some P300 million in interest earnings from these cash reserves each year.

Solid Group, however, is still hoping that it will get new contracts for its manufacturing business.

Ligeralde said the company was currently talking with a Taiwanese group for a possible contract to produce office equipment.

A foreign broker said Solid Group has been streamlining its operations since 1998 due to declining competitiveness in electronics manufacturing.

"Only its operations in Clark have remained viable, but it's because of the tax incentives from the Philippines Economic Zone Authority," the broker said.

Stock exchange to demutualize by Aug.

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is set to convert itself into a stock corporation by Aug. 8 as required under the Securities Regulation Code.

PSE president Ramon T. Garcia said in a briefing yesterday that the process was on track and the demutualization process would be completed without having to go through a corporate dissolution.

"We were informed that the Securities and Exchange Commission would allow the PSE to convert itself from non-stock to stock corporation through the amendment of its corporate charter and not through a dissolution," he said.

Last December, the PSE's member-brokers approved the conversion into a stock corporation that would have an authorized capital stock of P5 billion.

The membership seats in the PSE would be converted into shares of stock in the corporation with a par value of P8 million.

The PSE, however, has yet to hold a general meeting where members would be asked to approve the final details of the demutualization program before the May 20 deadline set by the SEC.

Among the major issues to be resolved was the amendment of the PSE charter that would allow the conversion of the shares of the 184 member-brokers into trading rights.

Garcia said the PSE management has already taken steps to reorganize the different departments to prepare itself for demutualization.

Garcia explained that the company's different departments would now focus on education to get more investors to put their money on the stock market.

"We've lined up certain products we would like to promote. We now have the listed small denominated Treasury (SDT) bonds and we'd like to offer more," Garcia said. "Hopefully, all incoming bonds of the national government would be listed."

Once the conversion is completed, Garcia said the PSE would work on the public listing of the shares on Aug. 8, 2002, two years after the effectivity of the Securities Regulation Code.

"The processing and approval of the listing of the shares would be patterned after Australia and Hong Kong," he said.

The PSE's latest financial report showed that its total assets in the form of cash and short/long-term investments amounted to P1.57. On the other hand, its liabilities amounted to only P95 million, leaving the PSE with a net worth of P1.475 billion.

iVantage seen tripling earnings

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PUBLICLY listed iVantage Corp. expects to more than triple its profits to P660 million within two years largely from earnings of its online remittance services, iRemit.

The company, controlled by the WS group of businessman William Chua, is banking on iRemit's new technology to cut remittance period from a week to as short as three hours at cheaper rates than those of banks and traditional money couriers.

Its remittance centers are open up to midnight and it boasts of an 800-branch network in the country.

By focusing exclusively on Filipino communities overseas, iVantage is hoping to get a big slice of the estimated $8 billion to $12 billion annual remittances flowing into the country.

iVantage is projecting earnings of P200 million by next year and P660 million by 2003.

iVantage has opened a remittance center in Hong Kong and is planning to open more branches in Taiwan, Singapore and Brunei within the next few weeks and more centers in Europe, Japan and the Middle East the rest of the year.

The company is planning to penetrate the North American market.

iVantage is in a race with Philweb.com Inc., a publicly listed high-tech firm controlled by former Trade Minister Roberto Ongpin, to tap the remittance business.

iVantage has key investments in Jupiter Systems (software development), Nexus Technologies (system integration), Wordtext Systems (logistics and support network), Lucky Star Network, and e-Business services.

The company also has investments in iBank Corp., IPDS Systems and Yehey.com.

Foreign loans slip 3.7% as peso weakens due to political problems

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday the country's outstanding foreign currency deposit units, or FCDU, loans fell 3.7 percent to $6.242 billion as of end-December from the end-September figure of $6.484 billion.

It also said in a statement the end-December FCDU loans were 14.3 percent lower than the $7.287 billion level as of end-1999.

The central bank said exporters accounted for 34 percent of total loans outstanding, followed by public utilities at 25 percent while oil companies accounted for 6 percent.

The rest of the loans were made by other borrowers.

"The maturity profile of the FCDU loan portfolio continued to improve with the share of medium and long-term accounts to total loan portfolio increasing further to 53.4 percent from 49.9 percent in the previous quarter," the central bank said.

The share and the level of the medium and long-term accounts at $3.334 billion were also the highest recorded since 1992, it added.

Bank analysts said the lower FCDU loans reflected the economic slowdown triggered by political uncertainties that hounded the administration of former President Joseph Estrada.

Estrada's impeachment trial, which ended in a military-backed civilian revolt in January this year, dragged the peso lower, pulling the local currency down to as low as 55 to a dollar from 39 at the start of 2000.

The central bank noted that the maturity profile of the FCDU loan portfolio as of end-2000 had improved as the share of medium and long-term accounts—with original maturities exceeding one year—to total loan portfolio rose to 53.4 percent from 49.9 percent the previous quarter.

Medium and long-term FCDU accounts reached $3.334 billion last year, the highest level since 1992.

Banks started operating separate FCD units in 1983, when the fund was only about $600 million. The combined share of four local universal banks and a foreign bank branch accounted for 42 percent of FCDU loans.

Urbancorp gets 60-day debt reprieve

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission yesterday granted Urbancorp Investments Inc., Urban Bank Inc.'s investment house, an additional 60-day debt relief extension.

UII earlier this week sought the extension of the debt relief to enable the National Association of UBI/UII Depositors and Creditors and Export and Industry Bank to finalize the terms of their proposed rehabilitation plan for UBI and UII. The plan will be submitted to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the SEC for approval.

The SEC order gives UII reprieve from paying its debts until July 8 this year. An earlier debt relief order expired Tuesday.

In issuing the order, the SEC hearing panel said the rehabilitation proposal of the Naud and Export Bank for UII and Urban Bank "is a novel development that is apparently welcomed by the majority of the UII creditors."

"It is inevitable that the order of suspension (of payments) be extended anew to grant the parties to the rehabilitation process ample time to negotiate and consider the new rehabilitation plan and seek the approval of concerned government agencies," the panel said.

Under the proposed rehabilitation plan, EIB would merge with the 28-branch UBI before the end of the year to create a new bank with a projected capital base of P6 billion.

The plan calls for the conversion of at least 10 percent of the deposits and placements with UBI, worth at least P1.25 billion, into equity prior to the merger of UBI and EIB.

EIB will also make an initial capital infusion of P300 million to revive UBI and bring the bank's equity base to P3.7 billion.

UBI will be the surviving entity but the name of the bank will be changed to Export and Industry Bank.

PDIC has given EIB and Naud up to May 15 to get the approval of San Miguel Corp., Petron Corp. and Manila Electric Co. to the proposed rehabilitation plan.

Bank of Commerce, which earlier withdrew its proposal to rehabilitate UBI and UII, said it was willing to revive its proposal or file a better one in case the Naud-EIB deal fails.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, May 9, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	77	78	76.5	78	671,100
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	43	43.5	43	43.5	56,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	209	209	204	205	158,200
Philippine National Bank	46	52	46	51.5	415,100
Security Bank Corp.	18.75	18.75	18.25	18.25	30,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	26	24.5	24.5	143,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	220	250	220	250	1,550
Manulife Financial Corp.	1260	1260	1260	1260	3,040
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1050	1050	1045	1050	3,680
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	40	40	40	40	3,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.45	740,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	690	695	690	695	550
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3	3	108,000
Piltel	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	680	695	680	695	71,760
Ivantage Corp.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	210,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.043	0.044	0.042	0.043	93,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	42	42	41.5	42	50,600
Manila Electric Co. B	55.5	57.5	55.5	56.5	942,300
Petron Corp.	1.68	1.72	1.68	1.72	5,111,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	200,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.34	1.36	1.34	1.36	1,110,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	1	1.02	1	1.02	15,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.06	2.06	97,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.9	3.05	2.9	3.05	209,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13	13.25	13	13.25	84,500
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	29.5	30	29.5	30	161,000
RFM Corp.	0.93	0.93	0.91	0.91	2,450,000
San Miguel Corp. A	45.5	46	45.5	46	44,700
San Miguel Corp. B	50	50	49.5	50	233,800
Universal Robina Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.3	46,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	30,000
Ayala Corp.	7.6	7.8	7.6	7.7	417,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.22	1.24	1.2	1.2	1,048,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.25	12.75	12.25	12.5	3,300
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	2,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	100
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.48	1,882,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	130,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24	24	23.75	23.75	295,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	120,000
Ipeople Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	110,000
Ipeople Inc. B	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	20,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.77	0.78	220,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	70,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	270,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	600,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	640,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	10,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.65	0.66	0.65	0.66	240,000
Pryce Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	200,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	120,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.25	15.25	15	15	165,200
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	520,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	5000	.5	49	49	530,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	5200	.54	52	54	90,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
Abs-Cbn Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	39.5	40	39	40	271,500
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	705	705	705	705	10,500
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	13,000,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.037	0.037	0.033	0.034	53,500,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.5	3,654,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	50,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	1,840,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	1,000,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	1,200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.08	2.12	2.06	2.12	3,444,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	240,000
SM Development Corp.	0.85	0.86	0.85	0.85	260,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.9	7	6.9	7	2,655,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	300,000
MINING					
Benguet Corp. B	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	5,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	15,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	20,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	6,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	300,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	3,210,000
OIL					
Imperial Res	.021	.021	.021	.021	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	.0042	.0042	.0042	.0042	4,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	.1800	.18	.18	.18	700,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	.1800	.18	.18	.18	1,300,000
Pacifica	.016	.016	.016	.016	16,300,000
South China Resources Inc.	.2000	.2	.2	.2	30,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,482,470	119,845,650.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	181,941,610	182,737,705.00
PRO	14,643,000	47,327,160.00
Mining	45,515,000	942,300.00
OIL	25,330,000	706,600.00
GRAND TOTALS :	268,912,080	351,559,415.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	609.16	UP 5.69
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,967.69	UP 12.86
PRO	569.41	UP 4.94
Mining	1,145.95	DOWN 7.78
OIL	1.46	DOWN 0.01
All Shares Index	751.62	DOWN 0.14
Composite	1,441.77	UP 14.49

NO. OF ADVANCES: 28; NO. OF DECLINES: 20; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 42; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 90; NO. OF TRADES: 1,969

CURRENCIES

May 9, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.130966	1.000000	50.4770
Japan	Yen	0.009329	0.008249	0.4164
United Kingdom	Pound	1.612418	1.425700	71.9651
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145010	0.128218	6.4721
Switzerland	Franc	0.648861	0.573723	28.9598
Canada	Dollar	0.733488	0.648550	32.7369
Singapore	Dollar	0.621069	0.549149	27.7194
Australia	Dollar	0.586175	0.518296	26.1620
Bahrain	Dinar	3.000069	2.652661	133.8984
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.301558	0.266638	13.4591
Brunei	Dollar	0.617677	0.546150	27.5680
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000091	0.0046
Thailand	Baht	0.024781	0.021911	1.1060
UAE	Dirham	0.307955	0.272294	13.7446
Korea	Won	0.000869	0.000768	0.0388
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.884200	44.6318
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.452084	22.8198
France	Franc	0.152450	0.134795	6.8040
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.401232	20.2530
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.064257	3.2435
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.021919	1.1064
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000457	0.0231
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.148712	7.5065
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.00441	0.2226
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005314	0.2682
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.021919	1.1064
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.122702	56.6706

DISCLOSURES

VULCAN Industrial & Mining Corp. has asked **Waste Management Inc.** to help it in its efforts to raise loans and investments, finalize contracts with the government and to help operate the waste transfer, handling, segregation facilities of WMI.

***

SPI Technologies Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 30, 3 p.m., at the Turf Room of the Manila Polo Club. Only stockholders of record as of April 30 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

***

ELECTED as **GSIS** representatives to the board of **Philippine National Construction Corp.** were Jeremy Parulan and Roberto Malonzo.

***

TANDUAY Holdings Inc. has denied reports the company is being offered for sale and added that any activity along this line is not being actively pursued.

***

ELECTED to the board of **EEI Corp.** were Fiorello Estuar, Delfin Lazaro, Samson Lazo, Diosdado Macapagal Jr., Rogelio Murga, Rizalino Navarro, Susanne Santos, Perry Uy and Alfonso Yuchengco III.

***

PETRON Corp. has announced the elections of Jose Campos Jr. as vice president for supply and operations, Antonio Pelayo as controller and Rosario Eijansantos as treasurer.

***

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. has declared a 50-centavos-per-share cash dividend on the company's 10-percent cumulative convertible preferred stocks series **G, N, P** and **S**. Payment date will be on June 29 in favor of stockholders as of May 24. Also declared was a P0.00375-per-share-per-day cash dividend on the company's series **IV** cumulative non-convertible redeemable preferred stock to shareholders of record as of June 15 and payable on the same date. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

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BSP, PDIC: We're not a 'giant piggy bank'

BY RAUL C. DANCEL

(Fourth of a series)

SPECIAL REPORT

TEODORO Borlongan firmly believes that Urban Bank would still be open today had the government's financial regulators extended to it a P3.5-billion emergency loan.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., however, stress that they are not some "giant piggy bank" that banks with financial problems can turn to for instant cash.

Borlongan, former president of Urban Bank, says it remains a mystery to him why the BSP and the PDIC cut the loan they were supposed to extend to Urban Bank from P3.5 billion to P1.3 billion.

The decision to trim the assistance was firmed up during a meeting at the Manila Golf Club on April 23 last year, an Easter Sunday. Borlongan and former Urban Bank chair Arsenio Bartolome III were reported to be "extremely reluctant" during this meeting to avail themselves of a P3.5-billion emergency loan from the BSP because the terms and conditions were said to be "very stringent." At the end of that meeting, it was decided that the amount would be reduced to P1.3 billion and that the money would come not from the BSP but from PDIC.

Buenaventura said Borlongan and Bartolome were reluctant to take out an emergency loan because they knew they lacked the collateral and the bank's board approval to get it.

Borlongan insisted that Urban Bank had enough liquid and non-risk assets to merit the loan, but the bottom line was that the central bank was bent on shutting down Urban Bank for reasons he could only speculate on.

Interbank borrowings

What was Urban Bank's financial state when it went on a holiday?

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said that from Feb. 1 to April 25, 2000, Urban Bank was resorting to interbank borrowings to meet its liquidity requirements.

It is on record that Urban Bank was a net borrower in the interbank market in 17 out of 20 banking days in February, borrowing a total of P5.8 billion. In March, Urban Bank borrowed in 19 out of 23 banking days amounting to P5.7 billion. From April 1 to 24, it tapped the interbank market in 13 out of 18 banking days with total borrowings of P5.7 billion.

Borlongan said these figures were misleading.

"They said we borrowed P5 to P6 billion in the interbank market. I think they have misled others into taking that," he said.

He stressed that interbank loans were borrowed and paid in a span of just 24 hours. "So if Urban Bank borrowed P250 million and paid it the next day, from an accountant's point of view, Urban Bank borrowed P250 million for the month. For the Bangko Sentral, they multiplied P250 million by 20 banking days of that calendar month and said we borrowed P5 billion," he said.

Borlongan added that although Urban Bank was borrowing heavily in the interbank market, it was also lending heavily. The bank, he said, lent about P131 million a day in January last year. On March 29, it lent P220 million, P90 million on March 30, P150 million on April 5 and P131 million on April 6.

Was it liquid?

Reyes also reported that as of March 31 last year, Urban Bank had liquid assets of about P2 billion, but this quickly dissipated in April, so that when it went on a holiday on April 26, it had an overdraft of P931 million.

Borlongan maintained, however, that at the time of its closure, Urban Bank had around P2 billion in liquid and non-risk assets. "That is P43 million in peso and foreign currency-denominated cash, P927 million in deposits with other banks, the Bangko Sentral and foreign banks, and P531 million in government securities, including treasury bills and under liquid assets," he said.

Government regulators, however, are asking: If Urban Bank was liquid when it went on a holiday on April 25 last year, why wasn't it able to come up with enough collateral to cover a P3.5-billion emergency loan?

"The emergency loan must be covered by reserves, collateral. It must have the undertaking of the directors. They said they could not qualify under the emergency loan because they didn't have the first-class collateral nor did they want their directors to know that they were going to take the emergency loan because they didn't want them to panic," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

"In the end, they can produce collateral to cover only up to P300 million. We approved a line in PDIC for P1.3 billion, but you see, they didn't because they knew they had issued checks in excess of P2 billion," he said.

He said that Borlongan and Bartolome already had people who were ready to sign an agreement to borrow an initial P300 million at PDIC's head office in Makati. But at the last minute, these people were recalled.

"They kept saying they had P1 billion, and we were waiting. Why did they recall their people? They ordered them home," Buenaventura said.

We were liquid

Borlongan said Urban Bank had enough collateral documents to avail itself of a P3.5-billion loan, but since the Bangko Sentral and PDIC were willing to lend only P1.3 billion, they didn't bother to push through with it.

"We said that the first P300 million, the P1.3 billion anyway, were not enough for the bank to continue. It was useless to open the bank for a day and declare a holiday right after," he said.

With P3.5 billion, Urban Bank would have survived a run, he said.

He also said that PDIC was choosy with the collateral. Urban Bank, he said, managed to produce a promissory note committing nearly P1 billion of Metro Pacific's Corp.'s debt papers as collateral, but PDIC turned it down.

PDIC president Norberto Nazareno said PDIC turned down Metro Pacific's promissory note because it was a violation of the single borrower's limit. Urban Bank, he said, could not lend that much to a single borrower. Nazareno said had he accepted the promissory note as a collateral, he would have tolerated an act that violated the central bank's rules.

Why the haste?

Borlongan is also riling over the fact that Urban Bank was shut down in less than 24 hours after it went on a holiday.

"It took a long time before the government moved to shut down Banco Filipino and the reason cited was insolvency. That made it even worst," he said.

He noted that from the time Banco Filipino went on a holiday on July 23, 1984, it got as much as P3.4 billion in emergency assistance from the government until the end of 1984. He added that the report done by the supervision and examination sector of the Bangko Sentral on Banco Filipino took six months to prepare and was 60 pages long. Even then, the Supreme Court ruled the report was insufficient.

In contrast, Urban Bank was closed a day after it went on a holiday and the SES report on it was only five pages long.

"This is the first time in the history of the central bank that a bank was closed for the reason that it declared a holiday," he said.

"We're not only talking about the incompleteness of the report," he added. "We're talking a lot of inaccuracies in the report."

No need for details

The central bank's Reyes argued that since Banco Filipino was closed on the basis of insolvency, "a report should be a detailed report because it should be based on realizable values of assets."

"In the case of Urban Bank," he said, "there is no need for a detailed report. There's evidence of illiquidity, there is a declaration of a bank holiday, a 30-minute to one-hour preparation would just be enough and there was no need for six months or 12 months to prepare the report."

The central bank's lawyer, Juan de Zuniga, added that the "information was there, the financial data were there, so on the evening of April 25, the SES was able to submit the report on a portfolio basis."

Conservatorship

On the point of placing Urban Bank under conservatorship as was done with Banco Filipino, Reyes said this "was not warranted in the case of Urban Bank."

"The law is clear that it is not a precondition to the designation of a receiver. Moreover, in a conservatorship, the bank remains open and continues to do business. Can you imagine what would have happened had we placed Urban Bank under conservatorship? Where will the bank get funding for the withdrawals?"

He added that the central bank have had bad experiences with placing banks under conservatorship.

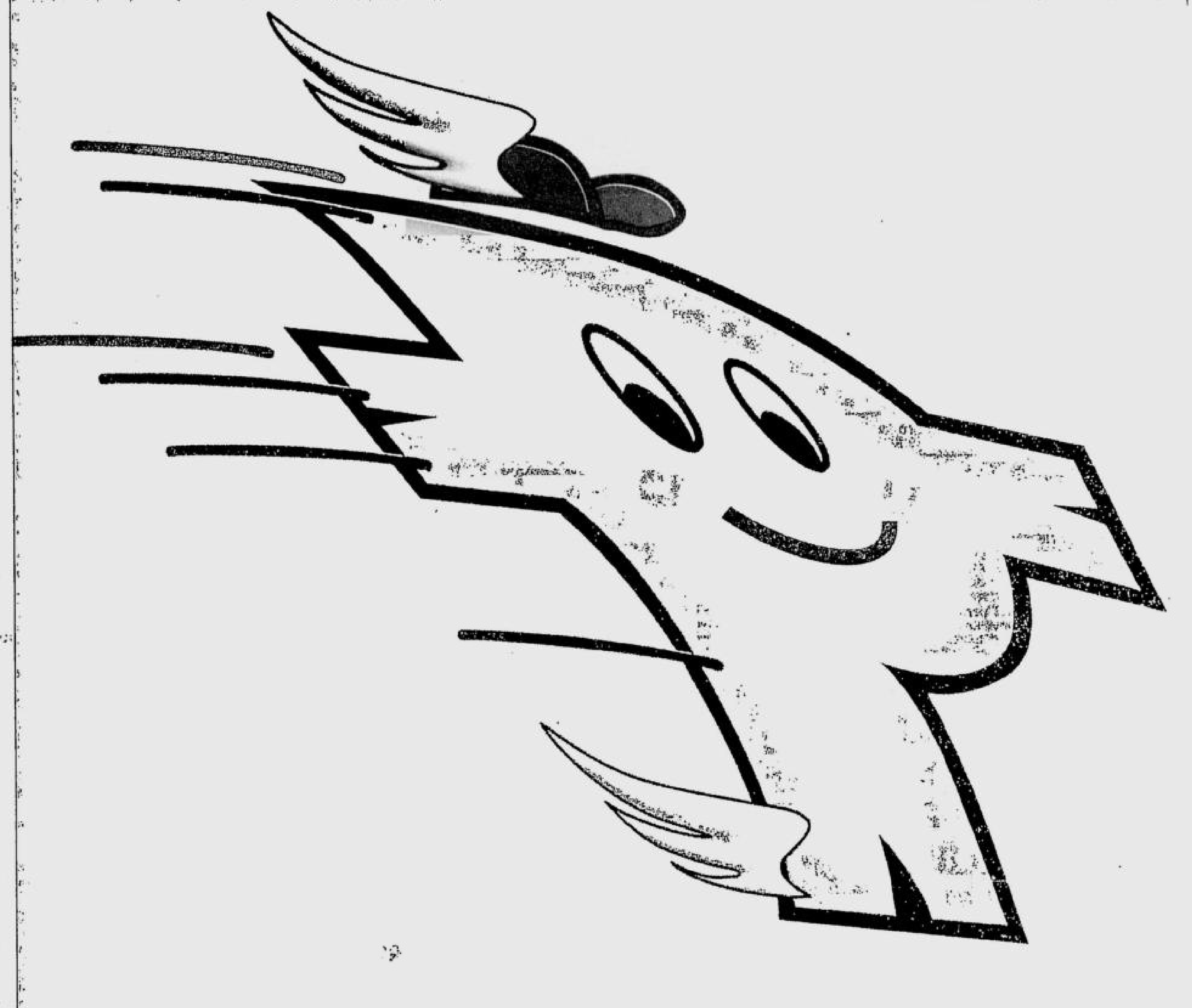
"We used that provision before in appointing a conservator in Banco Filipino and in Producers Bank. First, in Producers Bank, when we appointed a conservator, when it was announced that the bank was placed under conservatorship, there was an immediate run. Then when the conservator took over management and made credit decisions, the conservator was sued by the previous owner. In the case of Banco Filipino, we appointed a conservator, but what happened? When Banco Filipino was granted an emergency loan of P3 billion during the period that it was under conservatorship, the former owners of Banco Filipino, again, in a court case, said the Bangko Sentral should not collect the emergency loans from Banco Filipino, but from the conservator because he was the one who got the emergency loan. So because of these experiences, it is not wise—it would be impractical—to appoint a conservator to Urban Bank."

Not the vault

On why was Urban Bank closed immediately, Reyes again cited mistakes that the central bank committed with other banks, namely Orient Bank and the Rural Bank of San Miguel.

"In the cases of Orient Bank and Rural Bank of San Miguel, there were problems that we discovered. In these cases, records were misplaced, deposit accounts were split to comply with the insured deposit requirement of PDIC. Having learned on this lessons, the Monetary Board decided that whenever a bank declares a holiday, it should be immediately closed to preserve bank records, to protect depositors. When Urban Bank was closed, the insured depositors were immediately paid within three weeks," he said.

PDIC's Nazareno added: "If you give them just enough time, insured deposits multiply, get split. You don't protect the money that's inside the vault because that's nothing, maybe P3 million. What is more important are the documents. In some closed banks, if you give them enough time to manipulate the documents, they create a loan, but there are no promissory notes, and they create a deposit, then they try to hide that they are all related to each other." *(To be continued)*



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PROVINCIAL

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OTHER AREAS

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CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

PASAY

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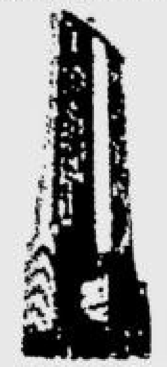

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TSora 3BR+1md 2TB P2.5M 2cgrge DBO 0917-8143792

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Horseshoe Drive 3BR Sn Juan P6.5M 915-5177

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QUEZON CITY

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HOUSE

ALABANG

Ayala Alabang For Rent 842-1571 • 0919-2061384

MAKATI

SANLO 3BR 5268048/49

PASIG

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QUEZON CITY

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

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Cityland Shaw Studio Furn 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

QUEZON CITY

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PASIG

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Adventure 80T new D/P 7819453

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97 Hilux 335T neg 8382015

99 GLI A/T 455T 631-3649

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate & deposit accounts of the late Mariano E. Villalobos were extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc.No. 2; Page No. 2; Book II; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Rodolfo A. Mabutas of Calaca, Batangas.
PDI-May 3, 10 & 17, 2001

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MANUEL F. LINDA has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. 148 Page. 30 Book LXXXVIII Series of 1998 before Notary Public Atty. Gregorio F. Ariola Jr. of Cainta Rizal.
(PDI- May 10, 17, & 24 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE OF LOSS THE FF. LICENSE OF DR. MARILOU T. NERY WERE LOST LAST MAR. 14, 2001 IN MORAYTA MLA. PRC 83274 S2 10384R01-4409 TIN 177430524

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires maybe. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen. - JLP

NOVENA TO ST. JUDE
Oh Holy St. Jude, Apostle & Martyr, Great invirtue, Rich in Miracle, Near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have resourced from the depth of my heart and humbly beg great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present & most urgent petition. In return I promise to make your name known & cause you to be invoked, St. Jude pray for us and all you invoke thy aid.
(Pray this nine times a day for (9) nine consecutive days. On the (8) eight day your prayers will be answered, for this prayer has never known to fail. Please don't forget to publish this once your wish is granted.)
JLP

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER (NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful fower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgn, assist me in this necessity. Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

RICHIE & AILEEN DIAZ

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Manila

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

PROPOSED NATIONAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (PHASE 1, NRIMP-1)
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS (BIIPS)

REBID-FINANCIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Contract/Bid No. BIIPS-E05

This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice of this project that appears in *Development Business* No. 597 of March 31, 1999.

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) toward the cost of the National Road Improvement and Management Program, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of the proposed loan to payments under the contract for which this invitation to bid is issued. The Department of Public Works and Highways invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for provision of the Financial Information Management System project. The implementation will occur in the Central Office, sixteen (16) Regional Offices, and two (2) pilot District Offices. The delivery/customization/implementation period is anticipated to be 24 months beginning in November, 2001.

Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, January 1995 (revised January and August 1996, September 1997 and January 1999), and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Department of Public Works and Highways (location and phone number provided below) and inspect the Bidding Documents from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM daily.

A complete set of the bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders from June 7, 2001, on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP 5,000 (plus postal charges of PhP 500 (inland) or PhP 2,000 (overseas). The method of payment will be cash or cashier's check in favor of the Department of Public Works and Highways. The document may be obtained in person from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the address below or will be sent by courier (DPWH will not be responsible for the loss by the courier).

All bids will have to be accompanied by a bid security of a minimum of 2% of the Bidders price as specified in the bidding documents and will have to be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 AM, August 2, 2001. Late bids will be rejected.

The attention of prospective Bidders is drawn to (i) the fact that they will be required to certify in their bids that all software is either covered by a valid license or was produced by the Bidder and (ii) that violations are considered fraud, which is, among other remedies, punishable by potential blacklisting from participation in future World Bank financed procurements.

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below on that day immediately thereafter.

The Department of Public Works and Highways reserves the right to accept or reject in part or in full any or all of the offers without assigning any reason thereof.

Undersecretary MANUEL M. BONOAN
Department of Public Works and Highways
Chairman NRIMP Special PBAC
Attn: PM Antonio V. Molano, Jr.
Team Leader PBAC-TWG
5th Floor Central Office
Bonifacio Drive, Port Area
Manila, Philippines
Tel.: (632) 304-3301
Fax: (632) 304-3018

(PDI – May 7, 10 & 17, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL TOBACCO ADMINISTRATION
Scout Reyes Street corner Panay Avenue, Quezon City
Tel No. 374-3987 Fax No. 374-2505

RE-INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL TOBACCO ADMINISTRATION (NTA)**, through its **Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC)**, invites interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for its Security Services at its Central Office Building and its eleven (11) Branch Offices, nationwide, namely, to wit:

CENTRAL OFFICE/BRANCH	NO. OF GUARDS
Central Office	9
Ilocos Norte-Batac	2
Ilocos Sur-Vigan	2
Ilocos Sur-Candon	2
La Union-San Fernando	2
Pangasinan - Rosales	2
Abra - Bangued	2
Isabela - Ilagan	2
Cagayan - Tuguegarao	2
Occidental Mindoro - San Jose	2
Visayas - Iloilo	2
Mindanao - Cagayan de Oro	2

The pre-qualification requirements are available for issuance to interested parties on **May 10, 2001** at the General Services and Procurement Division, Administrative Department, 3rd Floor, NTA Building, Scout Reyes Street corner Panay Avenue, Quezon City, Metro Manila. The deadline for the submission of pre-qualification documents shall be on or before the close of office hours on May 16, 2001.

Pre-qualified bidders shall be notified, thru formal letters. The **Instructions to Bidders and the Bid Documents** will be issued only to qualified bidders upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of **ONE THOUSAND PESOS (Php 1,000.00)**.

A Pre-bidding conference will be held on **May 23, 2001** at 10:00 a.m. at the NTA Board Room, 2nd Floor, NTA Building at the above address. The Public Bidding will be held on **May 28, 2001** at 10:00 a.m. at the same venue.

The NTA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part/s, thereof, without offering any reason, waive any defect/s contained in any of the bid/s submitted and/or accept the offer most advantageous to the Agency.

Atty. MINDA C. GAPUZ
Chairman, Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC)

(PDI - May 10, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
860 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, Metro Manila 3008
Tel. Nos. 372-5057, 372-5043
Fax Nos. 372-5048, 372-5061

INVITATION TO BID

The Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture (DA-BFAR), invites qualified bidders/suppliers to participate in the bidding of **"Various Fishing Supplies and Materials"** for the Training on the Establishment of Integrated Fisheries Livelihood Projects for the Fisherfolk of El Nido, Palawan not later than **2:00 PM** on **May 21, 2001.**

Bid form together with complete specifications may be obtained from Property Section.

Interested bidder are required to submit the following requirements upon securing bidding forms: photo copies of Business License, Certificate of Registration/DTI, latest audited Financial Statement, latest Income Tax Return (original copies to be shown for authentication purposes).

This Office reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by the PBAC is the most advantageous to the government. The PBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, or does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.**
Director

(PDI – May 10, 2001)

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OBITUARIES

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In memory of our beloved

PRISCILA LEDDA COPUYOC

**Retired Public School Teacher
Alumna, Philippine Normal School (PNU)
President, St. John Ma. Vianney Association
St. Joseph's Church, Project 2, QC Chapter**

*who peacefully joined our Lord on May 7, 2001
at the age of 78.*

Her husband,
Demetrio;

her children,
Jess and **Eleanor**, **Tita** and **Raffy Ramos**, **Alex** (†),
Francis and **Emily**, and **Mario** and **Velda**;

her grandchildren,
Franklin, Genny and **BJ, Jacob, Jefrey,
Abigail, Hanny, Nina, Dennis, Frederick,
Christian, Andrew, Robbie, Noel;**
her grandchild
Kyle

Who mourn her passing away but celebrate her eternal rest with the Savior Jesus Christ, request for prayers of the pious readers for the eternal repose of her soul.

The Holy Eucharist and the Mass was the center of her life. She had a special devotion to Jesus of the Divine Mercy and Our Lady of Lourdes;

A faithful and longsuffering wife, a loving and caring mother who sacrificed everything for her children, and a thoughtful grandmother.

Her remains lie at the Divine Mercy Chapel, Guerrero Street (Park), Xavierville I, Quezon City.

Interment will be on May 12, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina, after a 1:30 p.m. Mass at the Divine Mercy Chapel.

MA. VICTORIA LUCIA R. HORTALEZA, M.D.

Peacefully joined her Creator on May 8, 2001.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at #15 Nathan St., White Plains, Quezon City.

Daily Masses will be offered at 8:00 p.m.

Final rites will be celebrated on Sunday, May 13, 2001 at 7:30 a.m. at the White Plains Chapel.

Cremation will immediately follow at the Loyola Memorial Park Crematorium, Marikina City at 10:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, your kind donations to KYTHE FOR PEDIATRIC CANCER PATIENTS will be most appreciated.

ATTY. MAXIMINO F. MAGBALON

*Died in the Grace of our Lord
on May 7, 2001 at the age of 71.*

His loving wife **Lourdes**; children **Linda, Roberto, Lorna, Domingo, Lizabeth, Gregorio** and **Lalaine**; grandchildren, brother and sister, and other relatives and friends thanks the Lord for having blessed us with his caring life.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes (Chapel 2-B) 264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 12, 2001 at Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

---

*Eternal
life
will swallow
up that which
can die. God
made us for
this very
reason and
He has given
us the Spirit
as a guarantee
that we will
live again.*

2 Cor. 5:4-5

Our Dearest Mother

ANICIA ESPIRITU FERRER

of Lumban, Laguna & Sacramento, CA

Peacefully joined her Creator on May 3, 2001.

Her loving husband **Andoy**; children **Estrel & Rely, Nedy & Raymond, Poly & Aida, Edgar & Joecy, Nene, Tess, Angelo & Rose,** and **Bonnie & Christy**; grandchildren & great-grandchildren; brother **Mario**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

JASON SERVINIO DE LA FUENTE

of Tuguegarao City, Cagayan

**Graduate of San Agustin Makati Batch '89
De La Salle University, College of Computer Studies Batch '93**

Peacefully died on May 7, 2001 at the age of 30.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Chapel F, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on May 12, 2001, 9:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque.

WE DESIGN OBITUARIES FOR FREE.

Our Dearly Beloved

MARIO G. HENSON

Peacefully joined his Creator on May 8, 2001

His loving wife **Aurora "Nene" Asistio Henson**

his children **Marlon & Isabel, May & Carlo, Jeana, Ching, Mario Jr.** (†), **Tacus & Chato, Abet & Ten-Ten, Bhem & James, Bobby & Ampy** and **Onet**;

his grandchildren **Mary D, Kaye, Nicole, Zacky, T.J., Princess, Hopey, D-nhara, Auwie, J.B., Aika, Zoe** and **Aron**;

his brothers and sister **Abelardo G. Henson** (†), **Dr. Ruben G. Henson** and **Ottie Henson de Guzman**;

his relatives and friends request the readers for prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie at the Fatima Chapel on Edison Street, University Hills Subdivision, Kalookan City.

A Mass will be held at 1 o'clock in the afternoon on May 12, 2001 at the Fatima Chapel.

Interment will take place on the same day at 2 o'clock in the afternoon at the Eternal Gardens, Kalookan City.

ONG YAN KING Vda de CHUA

Widow of the late Chua Te

*Peacefully joined our Lord on May 1, 2001
in Naperville, Illinois, U.S.A. at the age of 92.*

Her bereaved children: **Richard** and **Polly**, **Elizabeth** and **Charles Co**, **Leon** and **Diana**, **Leona** (†), **Germana**, **Purita** (†) and **Thomas**

Grandchildren: **Frances** and **Constantine Ang**, **Christopher** and **Janice**, **Oliver**, **Richard**; **Derrick**, **Cedric**; **Amy** and **Jed Rubenfeld**, **Michelle** and **Yannis Halikias**, **Katrin** and **Or Gozani**, and **Cynthia**.

Great Grandchildren: **Ada** and **Asher**; **Adrian** and **Ethan**, **Sophia** and **Louisa**; **Amalia**, **Dimitri** and **Diana**, **Jake**.

Brother **Anthony Onghuad**; sisters-in-law, relatives and friends request prayers for her eternal happiness.

Her remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose Church, Greenhills East, Buffalo St., Mandaluyong City starting May 9, 2001

There will be a Memorial Service at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, May 11, 2001 at Santuario de San Jose.

Interment will be on Monday, May 14, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Frontier Ranch Philippine Inc., a Christian Youth Camp, will be appreciated.

OBITUARIES

JOSE ANTONIO ALBERT VELEZ "JOEY"

May 22, 1948 - May 8, 2001

Returned to our God and Father, having served and glorified Him in life, to now enjoy the fullness of joy and peace promised to all of us.

Marilou his wife, life partner and friend; his children **Javie** and **Bianca**, **Nikki** and **Joe**, **Amador** and **Rhea**, and **Anton**; his grandchildren; his mother **Lourdes A. Velez**; mother-in-law **Pilaring Francisco**; brothers and sisters, in-laws, nephews and nieces, accompany him with prayers and song to his new home in Heaven.

Masses and prayers at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque.

Interment follows the 9:00 AM Mass, Sunday, May 13, 2001 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
Always caring... INQUIRER OBITUARIES OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)
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In Loving Memory
on the
10th Death Anniversary
of

DANIEL M. RAGASA

January 3, 1915 - May 10, 1991

To Our Everdearest Daddy:

The years that have passed have in no way diminished the pain of your loss in our midst, but we know that you are in better hands with Him, the Almighty God. For now, the memories of your goodness, your unselfish love for all of us, and our wonderful times together will fill our hearts and minds till we join you for all eternity...

We love you...

Loving wife **Doring**; and children **Myrna**, **Dante**, **Eddie**, **Doris** and **Daisy**. We request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

JOHN J. SCHULTZ

Died in the grace of our Lord on May 8, 2001
at the age of 60 in Manila, Philippines.

His bereaved mother **Alicia L. Schultz**; and sister **Melinda**; brothers **Tony**, **Stanley** (†); nephews **Luis III** and **Ricardo Pellicer**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Mass will be held at the Capilla del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio Parish, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City on Saturday, May 12, 2001 at 3:00 in the afternoon.

I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.
John 14:6

CLASSIFIEDS

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

Cabanatuan Branch, Cabanatuan City

INVITATION TO BID

The DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES, Cabanatuan Branch, Cabanatuan City, will receive competitive oral bids on "as is, where is" basis at its office at Burgos Avenue, cor. Gabaldon Street, Cabanatuan City, on May 18, 2001 at 10:30 a.m. for the following properties to wit:

TITLE NO./DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	STARTING BID
TCT No. T-65697, Bulacan Registry, A parcel of commercial / agricultural lot containing an area of 19,089 sq.m., located at Bo. San Juan, San Ildefonso, Bulacan.	P 16,423,400.00

Erected thereon are the following improvements:

Multi-Purpose Pavillion (TFA-460 sq.m.)
Filter & Shower Room (TFA-50 sq.m.)
Two Swimming Pools (TA-720 sq.m.)
Skating Rink (TFA-225 sq.m.)
Rentable Rooms (TFA-126-sq.m.)
One storey residential house (TFA-140 sq.m.)
Perimeter Fences (TL-490 l.m.)
Cottage/Open Shed (TFA-266 sq.m.)
Lighting System and Generating Set
F.O. - SPS. MIGUEL & CARMENCITA SEMPIO (CARMI'S RESORT)

For further information, please see the Special Accounts Division of the DBP Cabanatuan Branch at DBP Building, Burgos Avenue, corner Gabaldon Street, Cabanatuan City or call telephone nos. (044) 463-1160 / 1165.

(Sgd.) **MGR. JANNETTE G. LAGAREJOS**
Acting Branch Manager

(PDI – May 10 & 13, 2001)

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Cow connection

A vaccine is a preparation of microorganisms designed to protect the body from a particular disease by stimulating the production of antibodies. The word is actually from *vaca*, Latin for 'cow.' It entered the English language at the end of the 18th century when the British physician Edward Jenner noted how someone who had caught cowpox was immune to the disease of smallpox. So someone who was inoculated with the vaccine of the cowpox virus would develop antibodies against smallpox and become immune to this disease. As time went by, the word *vaccine* became the general term for preparations administered to provide immunity to other diseases.

For the Record. A cow has four stomachs. Among U.S. farmers it is common practice to have a newly born calf swallow a magnet. This is to attract various nails, staples, tacks, bits of wire, and other pieces of hardware that the cow may ingest while grazing. When the animal is slaughtered, the butcher removes the magnet along with the metallic debris and sells the mass of iron and steel for scrap.

Past Forward. This day in 1897: Katipunan founder Andres Bonifacio and his brother Procopio were executed in Maragondon, Cavite. On March 22 at the Tejeros Convention, Bonifacio lost to Emilio Aguinaldo as president, but he and his followers ignored the election results. On their way to Indang, they were arrested by Aguinaldo's men, found guilty of sedition by a military court, and sentenced to death. Bonifacio was 33.

WORD WATCH

Sematic (si ma tik) : serving as a warning to enemies, as the conspicuous colors of some poisonous animals.

PDI – May 10, 2001

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in Mindanao.

Ake ya tu na INQUIRER. *Sirca yo, sulit pa!*

Butuan City
Mr. Rolando Busa
R.C. Busa Trading, 490 G. Flores Avenue,
Butuan City
Tel Nos. (085)225-3247/225-3169
Cagayan de Oro City
OMNI General Merchandise
Dr. 1 De Leon Building
Pabayo-Pacana Streets, Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. No. (08822) 722-530
Grandstar News and Magazines
122 Cruz Taal corner Pabayo Street
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel No (088) 857-2571/857-1612
Telefax: (088) 231-3248
E-mail grandstar@hotmail.com
Cotabato
Marquez News and Magazine Agency
51 Sinsuat Avenue, Cotabato City
Tel (064) 421-3264
Davao City
Dabaw Periodicals, Inc.
Duterte Street, Davao City
(fronting Galleria Hotel)
Tel No (082) 226-4406/221-3379/
221-3424/226-2931

Babasahin ATBP.
Lower Level, Gaisano Mall, Bajada
Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza, Bajada
Davao City
Tel No (082) 221-3927/227-4410
General Santos
Mr Ramon Dimalanta
GSC Newscenter, Dimalanta Building
35 Pioneer Avenue, General Santos City
Tel. Nos. (083)552-3352
Telefax No (083) 301-8731
Pagadian City
Mr. Eduardo Villar Clavero
Edmar News - Advertising Agency
Bonifacio Street, Pagadian City
Tel No (062) 215-1448/214-2641
Zamboanga
Mr. James Hao
Marian's Variety Store, 86-88 Sevilla Street
Zamboanga City
Tel Nos (062) 991-4294/991-1438
Mr. Ruben Bautista
#71 C. Atilano Street, Zamboanga
Tel. Nos. (062) 991-2985/
(062) 993-2826

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

E-MAIL: aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph
sprojects@inquirer.com.ph

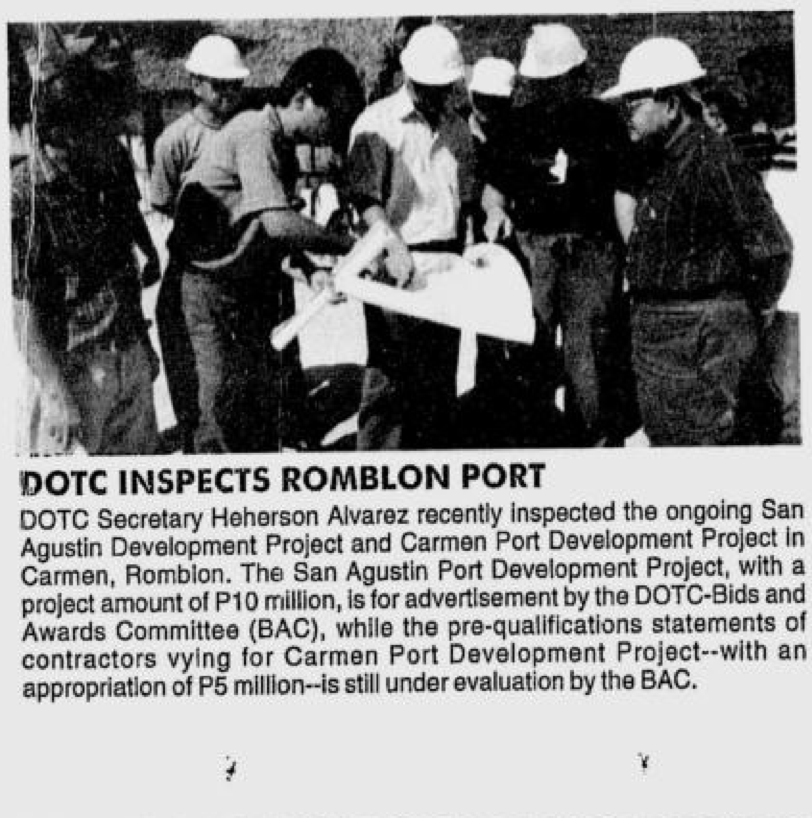
Jollibee introduces new breakfast meal

FASTFOOD leader Jollibee has announced the latest addition to its breakfast value meals—the more beefy and more tender Tapa Espesyal.

Now a part of Jollibee's permanent breakfast menu, customers can savor the taste of steaming hot garlic rice with slices of tender beef strips, fried egg and a choice of coffee or any regular drink. Jollibee sources its beef requirements from Australia and New Zealand, thus assuring customers of the safety and quality of its food products.

According to Jollibee product manager Lot Legaspi, "Jollibee is launching the Tapa Espesyal Breakfast Value Meal so that our customers can enjoy a wider selection of langhap-sarap rice-based meals every time they visit Jollibee."

Customers may avail of the Tapa Espesyal Breakfast Value Meal for P50 only.



DOTC INSPECTS ROMBLON PORT

DOTC Secretary Heherson Alvarez recently inspected the ongoing San Agustin Development Project and Carmen Port Development Project in Carmen, Romblon. The San Agustin Port Development Project, with a project amount of P10 million, is for advertisement by the DOTC-Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), while the pre-qualifications statements of contractors vying for Carmen Port Development Project--with an appropriation of P5 million--is still under evaluation by the BAC.

UST arts, sports workshop in Bicol

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas (UST), through its public and alumni affairs office (PAAO), is conducting the third Summer Arts and Sports Workshop (SASW) from May 7-11 at the Aquinas University in Legaspi City, Albay. Spearheaded by PAAO and coordinated through the local officials of the province and the host-university, the workshop aims to provide a venue for talented members of the Thomasian community and co-sponsoring institutions to share their resources and expertise with others. SASW 2001's sponsors include Faber Castell and Boysen Paints.

Free facial skin care

BECAUSE Extraderm Plus remains the leading local brand of exfoliant and skin care, it is giving its consumers another round of skin care treats with the "Alagang Expert" clinic mall tour. Running until June this year, the Alagang Expert skin care clinics offers free facial skin analysis and advise from dermatologists and licensed aestheticians. Plus, for simply purchasing an Extraderm Plus set, walk-in customers get an expert facial treatment. The clinic moves to SM Mega Mall B May 7-13, SM Centerpoint May 9-15, and Robinson's Galleria May 21 to 27.

Math seminar set

A SEMINAR-WORKSHOP on "Powerful Mathematics and its Applications—Mathematics Made Easy" is scheduled on Saturday, May 12 and May 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon at Don Bosco, Makati City. The seminar is based on the best-selling books titled "Powerful Mathematics Shortcuts and Techniques on Multiplication" and "aHow to Become a Multiplication Math Wizard" are available at National Book Store, and Merriam and Webster Book Store. For more details, call the author Reynaldo B. Gaytero at 812-4161, cell 0919-7439527, or Carlos Salazar at 840-1193.

Trade fair on babies

THE SIXTH "Everything for Babies and Kids" trade fair 2001 opens today, May 10 until May 13 at the Megatrade Hall I, 5th level, SM Megamall Building B. Organized by Visions Imex, Inc., the trade fair has Johnson and Johnson as major sponsor, PhilHealth as minor sponsor and ABS-CBN as special sponsor. Aside from the trade and sales exhibit, the fair features a variety of family-oriented events and activities. Admission is free.

BITS & Clips

AMA, GMA-7 poll tie-up

THE AMA Education System (Amaes) with AMA Computer College, Inc. and AMA Computer Learning Center, Inc., tie up with multi-awarded broadcast network GMA-7 in its "Eleksyon 2001" extensive nationwide coverage. According to the MOA signed by GMA-7 and Amaes, Amaes will conduct the counting for 48 hours after the close of the polls on May 14. AMA will also provide manpower to oversee the maintenance of the computer systems for the quick count during the elections. To date, more than 5,000 student volunteers have been enlisted. Other partners of the "Eleksyon 2001" coverage of GMA-7 are the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Nation Broadcasting Corp., Radio Veritas, Catholic Media Network and PLDT.

Mapua Tech alumni homecoming

CASTRO

TAN

ENGINEER Willington K.K.C. Tan, president of the National Association of Mapua Alumni (Nama), announced that the traditional annual reunion of graduates of all schools and departments of Mapua Institute of Technology (including high school and ROTC) will be held on June 16 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati. This year's management and organizing commitees for the 67th Nama annual convention and grand alumni homecoming, headed by engineer Cesar "Bobby" Castro, have been preparing for this event since last year. Interested parties may contact the Convention and Homecoming Secretariat (Christine Cortina or Andy dela Cruz) at 812-6947/819-7277/893-4801, or fax 810-5374. E-mail cdcastro@info.com.ph. Contact the Nama office (Rose Cruz) at the MIT Intramuros campus (527-7916, local 610), or fax 527-1134. Members of MIT class 1951 are requested to contact engineer Oscar de Venecia at 817-8596 and 817-3329. Mapua High School graduates may call Edwina Cabreza-Mananzan at 527-7498, 527-7484 or 527-7485.

SOLANDA ENTERPRISES, INC.

25 years of providing backbone to the nation's primary sources of livelihood...

Bagging the highly coveted Top Robin Distributor in South-East Asia Award (covering the years 1996-1998)

A plaque of Appreciation from Mr. Yasuhito Yamaki, Robin's VP for Ind'l. Products Division.

1999 Outstanding Service Award for Mercury Outboard & Mercruiser Sterndrives.

Most Outstanding Marketing Award for Mariner Outboard Engines in Asia Pacific (1996)

Best International Distributor of Robin Products (1996)

Sheraton Towers Singapore
December 12 & 13, 2000
"Giant Leap For The 21st Century"

A plaque of appreciation awarded to SEI from Fuji Heavy Industries.

TOP 5 DEALERS - awarded during Solanda's Power Beyond 2000 Conference in HK.

Anonas Construction

Lucena Silangan Marine

New OK Mktg.

Visayan Mktg.

SOLANDA DEALERS' CONFERE
Harbour PLaza Hong Kong

New Antonio Chu Hardware

Agriculture, Marine, Power and Construction - these are the main industries that help sustain the nation's economy, and which serve as primary sources of livelihood for the majority of Filipino families.

Twenty-five years ago, Jose Ngo, a kind-hearted man gifted with immense intelligence and vision, decided to put up Solanda Enterprises, Inc.: a small company with a big ambition - to help the country fully cultivate, develop and utilize to the people's advantage the many benefits our natural resources could offer.

Its main aim was to introduce to Filipinos, especially farmers and fishermen, modern machineries and skills that would bring them out of the backward practices they were so used to, which would often result in inconvenience, waste of resources, poor yields and meager profits.

Established in May 10, 1976 as a regional distributor of replacement spare parts & fishing accessories, Solanda was eventually awarded exclusive distributorships for diverse product brands and lines, which include gasoline and marine engines, industrial gensets, pumps, power tools and construction equipment.

Solanda's ascent to the top didn't happen overnight. Like many other successful companies, it started small with just a handful of employees. But thru hardwork and perseverance by both management and its staff, Solanda grew into a conglomerate considered today as one of the biggest and most respected in its fields. Attaining and maintaining this position could be mainly attributed to proper management, highly motivated employees, well-organized sales force, retaining good relationship with the suppliers, and a network of strategically located dealers all around the country.

Over the years, Solanda has been reaping awards and commendations from its global partners and the local government for its numerous achievements and valuable contributions to various publics and economic sectors. The company also recognizes the important role of its more than 500 dealers nationwide for the success it enjoys today.

"POWER BEYOND 2000"
SOLANDA DEALERS' CONFERENCE
Harbour PLaza Hong Kong

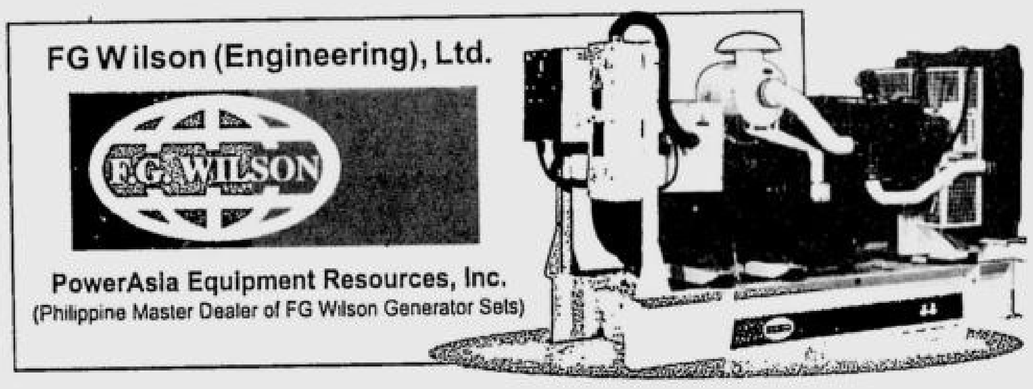
Best Dealer in the Country awarded by FGW Phils., FG Wilson Master Dealer.

A plaque of appreciation from LG Industrial Systems, recognizing the success of Solanda Ventures on LG Power Tools business.

Outstanding Marketing & Sales Performance Award for Mariner Outboards in Asia (1997)

So in turn, Solanda provides all the support they need. It ensures that the achievements of its dealers, big or small wouldn't go unnoticed.

Today, as we celebrate our Silver anniversary, we are reminiscing with great pride the many successes we were able to garner in just a short span of 25 years... and we are looking forward to another twenty five. It will be a golden opportunity to further strengthen our partnership with valued suppliers and dealers... to further serve our customers... and to continue being part of the nation building... mabuhay!



FG Wilson (Engineering), Ltd.

PowerAsia Equipment Resources, Inc.
(Philippine Master Dealer of FG Wilson Generator Sets)

Greetings from:

Bank of the Philippine Islands A tradition of leadership	VISAYAN MARKETING Kaimo Street, 8400 Surigao City	New Anchor Hardware 662-664 Evangelista Street, Quiapo, 1001 Manila	ALPHA TRAVEL INT'L. 506 Plaza Del Conde, Binondo, Manila	LG Industrial Systems LG Twin Towers 20, Yoido-dong, Youngdungpo-gu, Seoul 150-721, Korea
MOTORWORLD SALES CENTER N. Tobias St., Sta. Cruz, Laguna	NEW WALL BUILDERS 864 Anda St., Intramuros, Manila	Racing Pigeon Association of the Philippines, Inc. Magallanes cor. Anda St., Intramuros, Manila	純群級友會 （聖軍中學）	MOUNT SEA RESORT HOTEL AND RESTAURANT 163 Marcelia St., Bo. Bagbag, Rosano, Cavite
EXTRAMARK TRADING CO., LTD. 1 Flr., No. 242, Sec. 1, Di Hua Sts., Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.	HW ELECTRIC PHILS., INC. Cityland 10 Tower 1, 6815 H.V. Dela Costa St., Ayala Ave., Makati City,	QUINTREX Boating Made Easy 53 Waterway Drive, Coomera, Qld. 4209, Australia	AMDG FREIGHT CORP. NAIA Road, Tambo, Parañaque City	SDMO Generating IPS POWER SUPPLY PTE LTD 71 Tech Park Crescent, Tuas Tech Park, Singapore 638072

A. COSTA ENTERPRISES - 200 Rizal St., Legaspi City • **APPROVED DIESEL SPECIALIST** - D-75 Narra Ave., Capitol Shipping Ctr., Bacolod City • **AROSAN TRADING** - Don Eusebio Cas Ave., Bolinao, Pangasinan • **ASTRAL CUTTING EQUIPMENT & HARDWARE** - Bet. 5th and 6th Ave., Caloocan City • **BLACKSTONE POWER & CONTROLS PTE. LTD.** - 18 Pioneer Sector 1, Singapore 628428 • **CALIFORNIA INDUSTRIAL SALES** - 829 Tetuan St., Sta. Cruz, Manila • **CAMPOS RUEDA CORPORATION** - 22 N. Domingo St., Quezon City • **CARABAO MACHINERIES SALES** - 162 Rizal St., cor. A. B. Fernandez, Dagupan City • **CLLS CO. LTD.** - 23 Tuas Avenue 2, Singapore 639454 • **CIBELES INSURANCE CORP.** - 333 Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila • **CYCLEMART & GEN. MERCHANDISING** - Villanueva St., Butuan City • **DAVAO GENERAL HARDWARE CO.** - 314-318 Alvarez St., Davao City • **DISSTON INDUSTRIAL SALES, INC.** - 705 Real St., Intramuros, Manila • **EDISON LEE MARKETING CORP.** - 469 Clavel St., Binondo, Manila • **EAST INDIES MERCANTILE CO., INC.** - 191 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, Quezon City • **FELICOR GENERAL MERCHANDISING** - 60-64 Salcedo St., Vigan City • **FIL-CHINESE SHIH-SHIH COUNTRY CLUB** - Binondo, Manila • **FILTRUST MARKETING** - Borromeo St., Surigao City • **GCT MARKETING** - 817 Tetuan St., Sta. Cruz, Manila • **H. CHU HARDWARE** - Nancayasan, Urdaneta City, Pangasinan • **HENWARE MARKETING** - Araneta Vill., Malabon, Metro Manila • **HERAS FISHING SUPPLY** - 1221 Rizal St., Atimonan, Quezon • **HIGH DEFINITION PRINTING PRESS** - Pampanga St., Sta. Cruz, Manila • **ILOILO JAG MARKETING** - Mabini cor. Ledesma St., Iloilo City • **ILOILO NEW ORIENT MACHINERY** - Iznart St., Iloilo City • **IRONCON BUILDERS** - 471 Gen. Luna St., Walled City, Intramuros, Manila • **JABANES ENTERPRISES, INC.** - 91 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City • **JACEM MERCHANDISING** - South Super H-way, Alabang, Muntinlupa • **JESUS UY ENTERPRISES, INC.** - Legaspi St., Cebu City • **JUANITO'S PROPELLER SHOP** - Goodwill Vill., Tambo, Parañaque • **K.E. TEK SERVICES, INC.** - San Carlos Heights Subd., Binangonan, Rizal • **KINGSTAR INDUSTRIES** - Veterans Vill., Proj. 7, Quezon City • **LAND & MARINE MKTG. PTE. LTD.** - Block 3, No. 108, Tagore Lane, Singapore 787544 • **LUCENA STANDARD TRADING** - 67 Juarez St., Lucena City • **MACHINERY & MERCHANDISING CTR.**, INC. - 90-92 Osmena Blvd., Cebu City • **MANUEL COMMERCIAL** - Quezon St., Calauag, Quezon • **MARINELAND EQUIPMENT SUPPLY** - Rizal St., Aparri, Cagayan • **MAYON CONSOLIDATED, INC.** - 93 Panay Ave., Quezon City • **MELBOURNE INDUSTRIAL SALES** - Veterans Vill., Proj. 7, Quezon City • **METACOR CORPORATION** - 530 Evangelista St., Quiapo, Manila • **MICHIGAN MANUFACTURING INC.** - Araneta Univ. Vill., Malabon • **MITHRO TECH** - 16th St., Tambo, Parañaque • **MR. & MRS. BENITO YANG** - 2520 Taft Ave., Pasay City • **MR. & MRS. RAFAEL HERAS** - 1221 Rizal St., Atimonan, Quezon • **NEW ABC MARKETING** - 28 Mabini St., Iloilo City • **NEW ERA HARDWARE** - 90 Rizal Ave., Laoag City • **NEW OCCIDENTAL CONST. SUPPLY CORP.** - 106 Lacson Luzuriaga St., Bacolod City • **PLATINUM MARKETING** - Raja Soliman, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro • **PRIMUS INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION** - Malabon, Manila • **P. S. BABASANTA CUSTOMS BROKERAGE CORP.** - Dasmariñas St., Manila • **QUICKWAY IMPORT/EXPORT SERVICE** - 232 Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila • **RJ FISHING SUPPLY & GEN. MERCHANDISE** - Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite • **MR. ROLANDO ZEPEDA** - Malinta, Bulacan • **SHUN SAN INVESTMENT CO., LTD.** - 12th Fl. Kam Chung Comm'l. Bldg., 19-21 Hennesy Road, Hong Kong • **SINAIT BANTAY MARKETING** - National Road, Sinait, Ilocos Sur • **SOLID POINT MARKETING** - 713 T. Mapua St., Sta. Cruz, Manila • **SUNNY HOSE COMPANY LTD.** - 1-3 Dai Li St., Tai Po Ind'l. Estate, Ting Kok Road, Tai Po, New Territories Hong Kong • **UNIC SALES CENTER, INC.** - 17 Justice Romualdez St., Tacloban City • **VALENZUELA RUBBER & PLASTIC CORP.** - 1605 P. Jacinto St., Bagbaguin, Valenzuela City • **VENANCIO HARDWARE** - Gen. Luna St., Naga City • **VISAYAN FISHING SUPPLY** - 288 Manalili St., Cebu City • **WANGS COMPANY, INC.** - 333 Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila • **WASHINGTON TRADING, INC.** - Rizal Ave., Tacloban City • **WESTERN GUARANTY CORP.** - BPI Condominium, Plaza Cervantes, Manila • **WILLIAM AUTO SUPPLY, INC.** - Roxas Ave., Roxas City • **YUVIC COMMERCIAL** - Lopez Jaena St., Cadiz City

Messages

Warmest felicitations to the Solanda Enterprises, Inc. on its 25th Anniversary!

I commend Solanda Enterprises for its 25 years of success in the light machinery business. The company has displayed invaluable service to our people through the provision of high quality products and services in the market. I urge you to continue keeping the quality of your products and services at par with world-class standards as we aim for global competitiveness in the new millennium.

Today's global market presents businesses with more challenges and opportunities for growth. The competitive environment necessitates businesses to adhere to excellence and provide better products. I urge Solanda Enterprises to continue with its meritorious performance and intensify the commitment towards heightening business confidence and activity.

I wish your company greater success as the nation moves forward to a bright and prosperous future. Let us work hard to bring our country towards greater peace, progress and prosperity.

Congratulations and *mabuhay!*

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President
Republic of the Philippines

Greetings!

I convey my warmest felicitations to the officers and staff of Solanda Enterprises, Incorporated as their beloved company celebrates its 25th year in the light machinery business.

As a company that distributes a wide array of products that range from water pumps, portable and industrial gensets to marine engines, construction equipment and power tools for the past twenty-five years, Solanda Enterprises has become an indispensable partner in the growth of the agro-industrial, marine, power and construction sector in the country. Indeed, the company's rise as an important player in diverse sectors of the economy has been achieved through the combined hard work and perseverance of its officers and employees.

As the leader of thePhilippine Senate, I am fully aware that Solanda Enterprises' continued growth depends in part from the much needed support that the government can extend to it. Hence, I assure you of my unwavering commitment to the goals that you have for the betterment of the Philippine economy. I trust that you will remain a dynamic and strong business entity in the coming years.

Best wishes!

Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr.
Senate President

Happy Silver Anniversary!

Our warmest greetings and sincerest congratulations to the management and staff of Solanda Enterprises, Inc. as you celebrate your 25th Anniversary.

It is heartening to note that over the past quarter of a century, Solanda has served as a reliable distributor of light machinery such as gasoline engines, water pumps, portable and industrial generator sets, marine engines, construction equipment and power tools - catering to the needs of our agro-industrial, marine, power and construction sectors. These strategic sectors' light machinery requirements must be properly and promptly met if they are to expand, maintain, or repair existing production and service capabilities. This underscores the critical role played by the light machinery distribution business in the country's industrial modernization process.

We are confident that Solanda will pursue its thrust of offering only top quality products that comply with product standards, providing its clientele with the best that the market could offer, and widening the options available to Filipino consumers. Likewise, we hope that the company will support government efforts in promoting consumer protection and welfare so that customers get only the best quality and value for money, as well as in the control, prevention and elimination of unfair, unscrupulous and anomalous trade practices in all shapes and shades. All these are imperative in an increasingly competitive borderless global economy.

The fresh start provided by the Arroyo Administration ushers in bright prospects for Philippine business. Slowly but surely, government is working towards restoring not only the confidence of both local and international investors in Philippine economic prospects - an essential factor for bringing about a rebound in trade and investments, recovery, and stable growth from which all sectors stand to gain especially as these could trigger new or expansion business activities.

Once again, our sincere congratulations and best wishes to Solanda Enterprises, Inc. on your 25th Anniversary. Mabuhay!

Sec. Mar Roxas
Dept. of Trade & Industry

Warmest greetings to the management of Solanda Enterprises, Inc. on the occasion of your 25th Year Anniversary.

We are proud to count on your company as one of our partners in supporting the government's efforts to modernize the country's agricultural and fisheries sector.

Through all the years, you have provided our farmers, fisherfolk and agribusinessmen with dependable and quality agro-industrial and marine engines and equipment.

Congratulations and more power!

Mabuhay ang Solanda Enterprises, Inc.!

Leonardo Q. Montemayor
Sec. Leonardo Q. Montemayor
Dept. of Agriculture

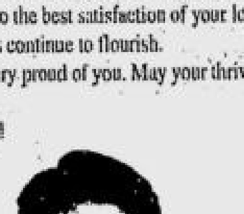
My sincerest best wishes to the management and staff of Solanda Enterprises, Inc., a leading distributor of small gasoline engines in the country on their Silver Anniversary on May 10, 2001. Your 25 years in the light machinery business is a feat.

Indeed, your company has contributed greatly in the growth of agro-industrial, marine, power and construction sectors in the country. Your diversified products will surely be useful for our countrymen in all aspects of their economic and industrial needs.

May your unwavering commitment to intensify your business to the best satisfaction of your loyal customers continue to flourish.
We are very proud of you. May your thrive increase!

Mabuhay!

Mayor Lito Atienza
Manila



My warmest felicitations to the men and women of Solanda Enterprises for encompassing your Silver Anniversary.

May the vision shared by IA and the Solanda Enterprises shall be carried on in the years to come as we continue to make Intramuros the City Lives On!

Mabuhay!

Domingador C. Ferrer, Jr.
Intramuros Administrator

SOLAN

Inspir

Jose G. Ngo
President

"Everything starts small, and Solanda is no different. Like most companies, our beginnings were humble.

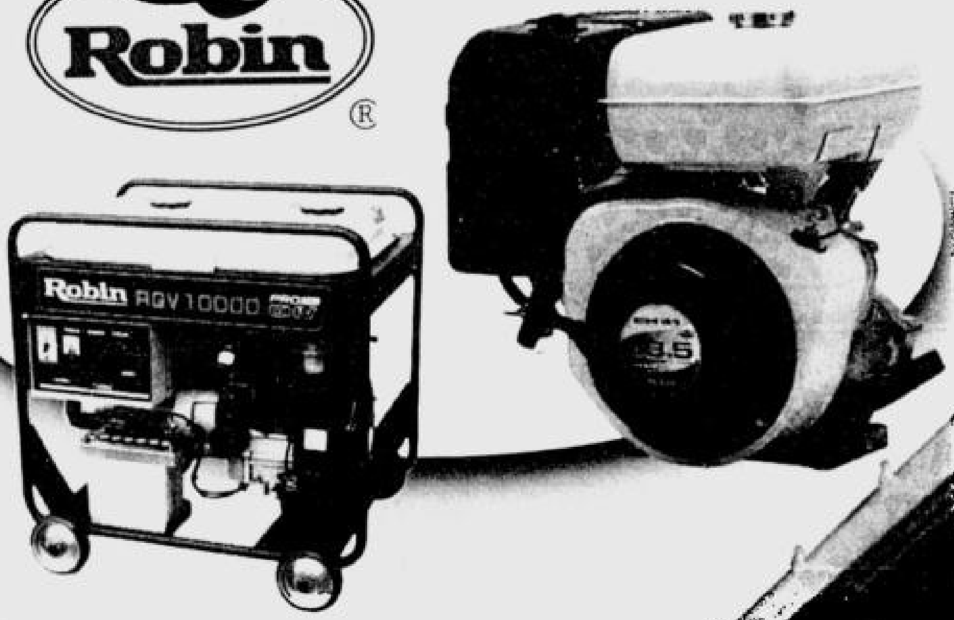
All we had was a vision.
25 years later, many changes have occurred, but our vision remains the same. It is our legacy to our customers and to our employees as well."

"Progress is a measure of success.
And success doesn't happen overnight.
Success is built from the ground up.
Built from hard work. Built from a commitment to quality.
Then run on an engine of goodwill and trust."

Vicente G. Ngo
Vice - President

A

Robin®



Fuji Heavy Industries Co., LTD (FHI), established in 1953, is one of Japan's largest manufacturer of transportation equipment. Best known for its *Subaru Automobiles.* FHI also produces commercial aircrafts, buses, rolling stock and industrial products. FHI has diversified its operations on the strength of its accumulated technological expertise, and all its products are distinguished by their technological excellence, incorporating state-of-the-art technology for outstanding performance and reliability. FHI Industrial Products center on the company's wide range of Robin-brand engines, which are also marketed globally in combination with such equipment as generators and water pumps. Robin engines have a wide range of applications related to *industrial, construction, agriculture, fishing, forestry, recreation, lawn and garden.*

MERCURY
MerCruiser

*F*or 25
with more t
agricultura

MERCURY MARINE is one of the subsidiary companies of Brunswick Corporation based in Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, U.S.A. Established in 1940, the company now produces Outboard Engines ranging from 2HP to 300HP, leading the way in boating through their extensive range of Mercury 4-strokes, Mercury Optimax and Mercury popular 2-stroke models. In 1961, the revolutionary MerCruiser engine was introduced at the Chicago Boat Show. It became an instant hit as it combined the power and economy of inboard engines with flexibility and maneuverability of outboard drive units. Mercruiser outsold all other sterndrive brands combined, and eventually captured an incredible 80 percent of the worldwide market.

DA ENTERPRISES, INC.

ing Leadership. Unwavering Partnership.

25th
nniversary

OUR VISION

A strong, innovative and truly responsive company, with economic security and harmony with our Suppliers, Dealers, Customers and Employees.

OUR MISSION

To provide our country with engines for progress and power for development through high quality products.

THE CANONS OF OUR CORPORATE EXISTENCE

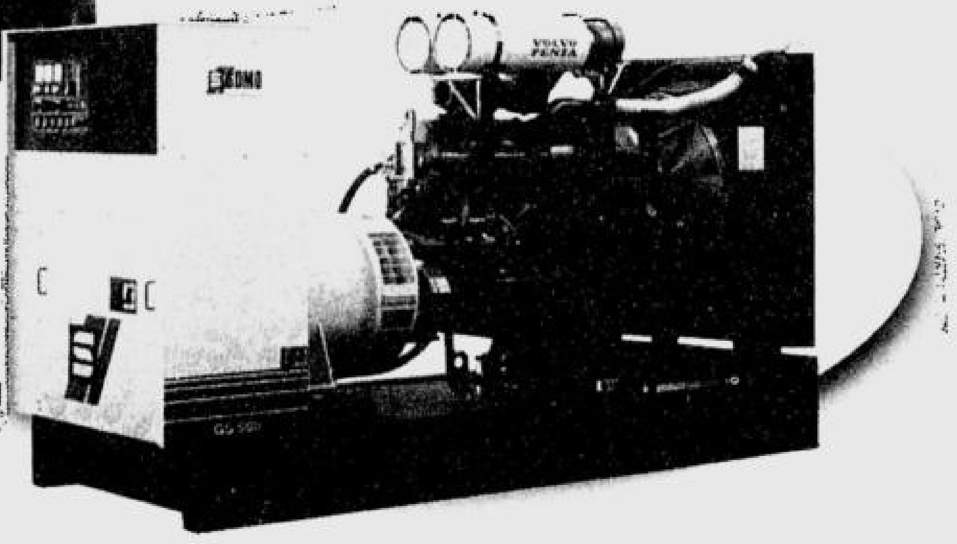
- **Customer Dedication** - An unwavering and unyielding vow to provide the customers with only the best, with superior products and sterling services.
- **Excellence** - The persistent quest for exceptional performance.
- **Credibility** - A devotion to the highest moral work ethics.
- **Value of the Individual** - A high regard for every employee being a unique and distinct individual, a professional in his own right with his own sense of honor and self-respect.
- **Harmony of Purpose** - The team spirit to sustain the company's vision and the team work to achieve its mission.
- **Commitment to Society** - A pledge to be a responsible part of the community dedicated to elevate our standards of living.

The hard-working, persevering team who greatly contributed in elevating Solanda Enterprises, Inc. to the glorious position it enjoys today!

years, we've been able to forge partnerships
han 500 dealers countrywide, serving the
l, marine, power and *construction* industries!

LG Industrial Systems Co., LTD. or LGIS is a subsidiary of one of South Korea's largest group of companies. LG Group, founded by Mr. In-Hwoi Koo in 1947 as Lucky Chemical, the company had soon expanded to synthetic resins industry, electronic and electrical, oil refining, information and communication, petrochemical, precision manufacturing, energy, semiconductor, securities, insurance, finance, etc. LGIS carries out R & D activities on a variety of advanced technologies and products in five business areas, such as electrical apparatus and equipment, building facilities, automated systems, controllers and service industry equipment that include the LG electric power tools. LGIS adheres to its philosophy in "*Creating Value for the Customer*". Another philosophy which drives LG Industrial Systems management is "*Esteem for Human Dignity*".

SDMO®
Generating



SDMO is one of several companies under the Meunier Group founded in Brest, France in the 1930's. Established by the Meunier Group in 1969 to manufacture alternative power sources. SDMO has since then become one of the world's leading manufacturer of Generating Sets not only for standby and prime applications but also sophisticated technologies covering specialized energy systems. With a vast wealth of experience and engineering know-how, SDMO tackles the most intricate requirements for telecommunications, military, marine, gas turbine and power plant applications.

Distributed worldwide through an excellent network of distributors in more than 140 countries, SDMO delivers stand alone generating sets ranging from 2.5 to 3,000 kva and several megawatts of combined power for complex energy systems. Standby or prime, or whatever the application may be, SDMO is THE source of Generating Sets.

More Alive @ 25!

Three hundred sixty-five days a year are almost always not enough for Solanda's planned events and activities for the whole year. Conferences here... product launchings there... it's actually a well-balanced set of activities. There's time for serious stuff and time for fun!

__Dealers' Conferences...__

It was in 1986 when Solanda conducted its first dealers' conference. Its success was so inspiring that the company decided to organize at least one conference every year, done here or abroad. This is one of the numerous incentives enjoyed by the company's more than 500 dealers, located in different parts of the archipelago. It's also being participated in by officials, guests and representatives of companies from various countries.

To ensure the success of a conference, Solanda prepares highly interesting programs, using varied formats, such as lectures and discussions headed by industry experts... and of course, it wouldn't be complete without sumptuous delicacies and entertainment by popular local celebrities!

__Incentive Tours, Expanded Salesmen Program...__

Dealers and salesmen have big reasons to stay motivated and to continue doing better in promoting and selling Solanda's line of products. The perks of trips abroad are always there up for grabs for those who will be deemed best dealers and salesmen. And it's easy being one, for Solanda's products are well-known, widely accepted by the market.

And as an act of service and goodwill to communities where a Solanda dealer is located, respected members of barangays are given the opportunity to become Solanda's salespersons. To date, more than 100 salespersons have been accredited and thousands of pesos in commissions have been rewarded.

__Lectures, Service Clinics, Product Demos...__

Solanda's Mobile Service Team is a common sight even in remote barrios. On board are high-calibre product development engineers and expert technicians, giving lectures on basic troubleshootings, repair and maintenance of engines, pumps and other light machineries being distributed by the company. Free on-the-spot repairs and other services are also provided to assist our dealers show their gratitude to their loyal customers. Product demos are also conducted on the field to introduce new products, its features and actual usage.

__Public Service, Jobs To Many, A Boost To The Economy...__

Solanda adheres to the belief that to be successful, a company shouldn't think purely of business... it should have a heart. And Solanda is proud of the fact that aside from its financial success, it also makes huge contributions to the growth of the nation.

From the very beginning, Solanda is committed to public service. Its products, such as pumps help in fire prevention, its inflatable boats used in rescue missions.

Its engines have long been a partner in constructions, fishing and agriculture, and its generators have been powering both industrial and household sectors. It's also in line with the government's program to create more jobs for the people and help uplift the nation's economy.

__Robin Bankarera...__

For so many years now, Solanda has been sponsoring boat-racing events usually held during summer in the many coastal towns and cities of the country.

The eagerly awaited event is open to all fishermen and boating enthusiasts who use Robin Engines as their main propulsion for their boats. The event, fully subsidized by Solanda as a way of showing gratitude for their continued patronage, also serves as venue to further promote the many advantages of using Robin engines over other similar products.

__Summer Escapades, Sports Fests, Parties...__

Solanda wants its management and staff to strike a balance between work and play by getting together for company sponsored events.

All yearlong, gatherings are held not only to relieve the pressures of work but also to promote camaraderie among its employees. Come summertime, company employees gather together with their families for a day or two at the beach. Cash rewards and trophies are up for grabs in sports events participated in by the different departments. Groceries, gifts and cash prizes are anticipated with so much excitement on events like Moon Cake Festival and Christmas festivities.

Today, as we reach our 25th anniversary, you can bet everyone of us will not just celebrate...... it's partytime!

SOLANDA
DEALERS INCENTIVE TOUR '99
South Korea - Tokyo, Japan

Participants to the 1999 Solanda Dealers' Incentive Tour in Japan & Korea.

Harbour Plaza Hong Kong

Benny Tiu of New OK Mktg. accepting his raffle prize.

More than 300 participants attended the 12th Dealers' Conference in 1999.

Hottest Celebs' spiced up SEI's 12th Dealers' Conference.

Dealers Incentive Tour '99, Yongin Everland - South Korea

SOLANDA DEALERS CONFERENCE

150 dealers and guests in SEI's Millennium Dealers' Conference in HongKong, dubbed "Power Beyond 2000"

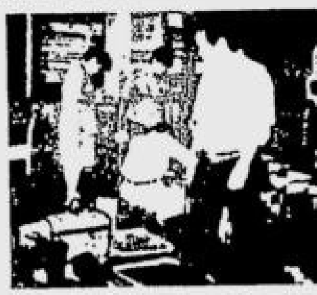
Fun visit in HongKong's Original Jumbo Palace.

Summer '2000. More than 90 SEI employees invaded Monte Vista Resort in Sariaya, Quezon.

Update on latest engine technology & technical know-how.

Demo of Robin Products & Service Trainings in Mindanao.

Service technician installing a 90hp Mercury Outboard Engine in Pampanga.



Solanda staff readies Robin Power Products as donation to Taiwan which was hit by an earthquake.

Robin
MOBILE SERVICE TEAM
SERVICE CLINIC
APRIL 2000

Service On The Go. SEI's high calibre engineers & technicians on a countrywide service tour.

Members of Iglesia ni Cristo use Bermuda Inflatable Boat & Mercury Outboard Engine on their rescue mission for the Marikina flood victims.

Service Clinic. 40 units of Mobile Power Sprayer powered by Robin Engines being used in Guimaras Mango Plantation.

Eiji Ryufuku (FHI) and Cecilio Ocampo (SEI) with a farmer in Sariaya, Quezon doing actual field work.

Not minding the heat of the sun...

Solanda Enterprises & Solanda Ventures at Philconstruct Exhibit.

The 3rd Salesmen Cash Raffle Draw 2000.

Robin Bankarera fever lives on!

Proud users of Robin products.

Mr. Vic Ngo & Yasuo Akashi of Fuji Heavy Singapore visits a fishing village in Atimonan, Quezon.

Greetings from:

COO YEE SAN HOTEL PLAZA Naguilian cor. Asin Rd., Baguio City	CTC TOOLS COMMERCIAL CENTER 1346 Rizal Avenue., Ext., Caloocan City	**MERCURY** Mercury Marine Singapore 72 Loyang Way, Singapore 508762	**KIM HONG** **FAMILY ASSOCIATION**	**Solanda Ventures, Inc.** Anda cor. Solana Sts., Intramuros, Manila
FHIS **FUJI HEAVY INDUSTRIES** **(SINGAPORE) PTE. LTD.** 8 Jurong Town Hall Road #23-02 The JTC Summit, Singapore 609434	AT ANTONIO'S TRADING & GEN. MDSG. CORP. 113 D. Silang Street, 4200 Batangas City	R Royal Plumbing & Hardware 813 Tetuan St., Sta. Cruz, Manila	**AQUAPARK** TRADING 1182 Padre Algue St., Tondo, Manila	**ANONAS CONSTRUCTION** **& INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY CORP.** Kamias • T. Sora • Quirino, Quezon City
KING'S MOTOR PARTS J.P. Rizal St., Calapan, 5200 Oriental Mindoro	VLM **VIGAN LIBERTY MARKETING** 38 Quezon Avenue, Vigan, Ilocos Sur	DIAMOND TA-NONG AGRICULTURAL MACHINE CO., LTD. No. 6 Feng-Ming Road, Shang Feng Tsuen, Ta-Ya Shiang, Taichung, Taiwan	TACLOBAN LUCKY HARDWARE & F/S 58-62 Rizal Avenue, 6500 Tacloban City	**Scott & English Ltd** 锦泰有限公司 2, Sixth Lok Yang Road, Scott & English, Singapore 628100
JEONIL® **MACHINERY CO. LTD.** 152-1, Woonyang-Dong, Kimpo City, Kyunggi-Do 415-050, South Korea	**NEW ANTONIO CHU** **HARDWARE** 290 A.B. Fernandez Avenue, 2400 Dagupan City	*You're in good hands with* **METROBANK**	**SEAMAN TRADE CENTER** **MG MACHINERY SUPPLY** Cebu City, Philippines	**Industrial Steel Power Corp.** Aurora Blvd., Pasay City, Metro Manila
• Mr. & Mrs. Alfredo Co • Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Sotingco • Mr. & Mrs. Juanito Lim • Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Pequet	**PYLON INDUSTRIAL** **SALES CORP.** 191 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	**New O K Marketing Corp.** 29 Ledesma St., 5000 Iloilo City **Mabuhay Agricultural Corp.** Manga St., Narra, Palawan	**COSMO TRADING CO., LTD.** 15th Floor Suzuya Bldg., 34-5 Hongo, I-Chome, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-0033, Japan	**SILANGAN MARINE &** **INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY** Granja cor. Cabana St., 4301 Lucena City
Longwood Garden HOTEL 1711-1721 F.B. Harrison St., cor. Cuyegkeng St., Pasay City	enmercen **GENERAL MERCHANDISING CENTER** • Acharon Blvd., SILWAY, General Santos City • S.K. Pendatun St., Cotabato City	**SEALS** SEALS COMPANY LTD. 5F-5 No. 391, Sinyi Road , Sec. 4, Taipei City, Taiwan R.O.C.	NEW **CBPP** **PALAWAN ENTERPRISES** No. 60 Rizal Ave., Puerto Princesa City, 5300 Palawan	Chase Advertising, Inc. 9531 Ginbee Bldg., Kamagong cor. Akle Sts., San Antonio Vill., Makati City

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

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CAP College accepted as AAOU member

CAP College Foundation Inc. has been accepted as an associate member of the Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU) along with other Philippine-based schools UP Open University and Polytechnic University of the Philippines. It is also a proud member of the International Council for Distance Education (Icde).

CAP College is one of 11 founding institutions of Open and Distance Learning Foundation, Inc. (OLDF) which acts as a resource center where institutional members can avail of training programs and get involved in current issues and trends affecting the development of open learning/distance education. The OLDF also develops linkages and networks among institutions to promote effective sharing of expertise.

Established in 1988, at a time when distance education was just being introduced in the country, CAP College became known as "the school without walls." It envisions more of the higher education opportunities for Filipinos through innovative techniques.

At present, CAP College has two colleges—Liberal Arts and Business Administration—offering certificate, associate, baccalaureate and graduate programs which are all duly recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). From 1,000 students in 1988, enrollment rose to 6,929, exceeding its target of 1,500 enrollees for 2000 alone.

What sets CAP College apart is its impressive track record. It uses media mix and technological innovations, from enrollment procedures up to the materials used for instructional delivery. Its next venue is online learning. Right now, materials are being prepared along with an online tutoring/monitoring system.

Course offerings are constantly evaluated through meetings with its academic review board. This is to ensure that course offerings conform to the needs of various industries. BS Office Administration major in office management and AB in pastoral studies are the latest additions to CAP College's growing list of courses. It also conducts short-term training and workshops for security guards, computer technicians, and nurses.

To fully enjoy self-paced learning, there are student conferences, tutorial sessions and counseling, and a quarterly issue of "The Trailblazer". These learning enhancement activities greatly support distance education students.

For more information, e-mail capcollege@cap.com.ph.

FREE RIDE FROM LISTERINE, BACTIDOL AND PONSTAN 250

A free and useful service provided by Listerine, Bactidol and Ponstan 250 during the 93rd Philippine Dental Association Convention was to shuttle the dentists to and from PICC and World Trade Center using Ponstan 250 buses. Listerine, Bactidol and Ponstan 250 are major brands of the Pfizer Consumer Healthcare Division, which supported the dentists as they communicated the theme of achieving. "Professional Excellence in the 21st Century" during the convention held April 29 to May 5.

KFC OPENS AT THE POWER PLANT MALL

Ready to satisfy the cravings of the busy and mobile urbanite crowd, KFC recently opened its newest store at the concourse level of The Power Plant Mall in Rockwell Center. The affair also coincided with the store opening of its sister company Mister Donut Café located beside the new KFC store. Leading the ribbon cutting ceremony were (from left) Mister Donut officers area manager Edith Pile and franchise management head Myrna Uy, general manager Jose Magsaysay; KFC officers business development manager Ankur Narain, Rockwell Restaurant manager Pinky Salvador, area manager Cathy Cruz and Profit Center manager Linda Jalandoni.

Bankard posts gains in 2000

THE YEAR 2000 was a milestone year for Bankard, Inc., one of the country's leading credit card companies which also holds the distinction of being the first to introduce the smart card technology to the local market. An active player in the credit card industry arena, Bankard issues the two leading international card brands, Bankard MasterCard and Bankard Visa, an addition to its pioneering smart cards Bankard MF1, Bankard One and Bankard E-Cash.

Bankard's solid position in the industry was further given a boost in May 2000 with its entry into the Yuchengco Group of Companies via a share purchase agreement (SPA) signed by RCBC Capital Corporation, the investment bank subsidiary of Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC), and Equitable PCI Bank where the former agreed to acquire 67-percent interest in Bankard. By December 2000, the closing conditions to the SPA were deemed completed.

The partnership with RCBC was welcomed by Bankard as a means to bring greater value for Bankard's shareholders and more benefits for its cardmembers. As Bankard president and CEO Rogelio S. Chua himself said, "The partnership with RCBC came in addition to other solid gains posted by Bankard in its major key indicators in 2000 – a noteworthy achievement for the company considering the unfavorable economic conditions prevailing at the time. Cards in force at the end of 2000 improved to 270,847 from 235,053 in 1999--a growth of over 15.2 percent. Total billings reached P5.13 billion while revenue went up to P1.21 billion in 2000. Net income after tax increased by 8.2 percent over 1999 to P125 million."

Ahead sets honor class

AHEAD Tutorial and Review Center conducts a special college entrance exam review course for honor students starting Monday, May 14 at the Institute of Social Order, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Participation in this special review program is reserved for the top ten incoming seniors of their school. It is designed to prepare participants for the college admission tests of the University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University, and De La Salle University. Call Ahead at 426-00334 to 36, or visit its main office at 3309 Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City to make reservations.

PCFC TRAINING GETS FUNDING

The training for implementers of credit-for-the poor programs conducted by the People's Credit and Finance Corporation (PCFC) merited financial support from the Agencia Española de Cooperacion Internacional (Aeci). Aeci will course its fund through the Codespa Foundation, an international non-government organization based in Spain. Photo shows Codespa Asia Delegate Pablo Iglesias (center) and PCFC chair and concurrent Landbank president Gary B. Teves shaking hands as they exchange copies of the signed agreement on this project. Present during the signing ceremony are (from left) Aeci resident coordinator Victor Guasch, PCFC president and CEO Eustacio B. Orobia, Jr., PCFC director Jose C. Medina, Jr., LBP EVP Jesus F. Diaz and PCFC treasurer Romeo Glen B. Sumido. The project involves the commitment of PCFC and Aeci (or the Spanish Development Agency under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain) through the Codespa Foundation to provide about $230,000 for the training of microfinance implementers in the Philippines.

Gear up your cellphone and put on that dress

YOU can now accessorize your Nokia phone while you shop for the coolest outfits this summer in selected Cinderella outlets. And it's definitely the best way to get all set for any occasion.

Nokia, the world leader in mobile communications, teams up with fashion authority Cinderella to bring in innovative mobile phone accessories and the latest in teen apparel. Nokia recently sponsored the relaunching of Cinderella's Seventeen brand which became Seventeen Young Company (SYC)—paving the way to a stylish collaboration between two trendsetters. A collection of Nokia phone and genuine accessories are paired up with SYC outfits in window displays of Cinderella-SYC outlets to show off the latest in fashion and innovation.

As part of the Nokia-Cinderella tie-up, original Nokia accessories such as hands-free kits, batteries and Xpress-on covers will be available at Cinderella Glorietta and Cinderella Alabang Town Center until May 2001. Nokia users can now gear up their phones while shopping for the latest in teen fashion. With a wide range of cool and trendy Nokia phone accessories to enhance the function of every Nokia phone and match the fashion statement of any SYC outfit, deciding for that ultimate sophisticated get-up to suit any occasion has never been this easy and exciting.

So, the next time you want to get cool and classy, drop at any select Cinderella outlet and gear up that chic Nokia phone and put on that hip SYC outfit.

VOTER EDUCATION ON THE NET

A group of young men and women recently launched Philvote.com, a non-partisan website that provides relevant information on the May 14 elections. It has MyPhilVote which will allow voters to get a complete list of candidates in the precinct they are voting; Compare Function which allows the user to compare all candidates according to essential information the candidates have provided (such as profile, agenda, track record) and MyBallot which enables users to compose a sample ballot based on the choices they make. In photo conducting a demo during the launch are web experts Gerard Mendoza (seated) and Arturo Suñga. For more information, contact Philvote.com at 890-5767 or 890-7679.

USC EXHIBIT AT SM CEBU

The University of San Carlos College of Architecture and Fine Arts recently held its third annual exhibit at SM City Cebu. Shown discussing the creative output of Cafa students Dwight Lemuel Rasines Diva and Michbern Dy Simtoco is (from left) Dean Roberto Rafanan; Father Roderick Salazar, SVD, past USC president and member of the board of trustees of PTV 4 broadcasting; Fr. Francisco "Kito" Estepa, SVD, Ph.D., USC president; and Omar Maxwell Espina, Cafa chair.

CONTRACT SIGNING

Maricaban Bay Marina-Resort Palawan was one of the sponsors of the recent second Philippine Hobie Challenge. Shown is Peter Capotosto, commodore of Manila Yacht Club and Cathy Madueño, assistant sales manager of Maricaban Bay Palawan.

BAYANTRADE PARTNERS WITH COMMERCE ONE

BayanTrade.com recently strengthened its Integration Services delivery with the appointment of Commerce One as its first wave of e-marketplace integration partner. Integration partners are consulting and technology firms that assist BayanTrade buyers and sellers in integrating their enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems with the e-markeplace's e-procurement service. In photo are (from left) Bertrand Luang, Commerce One's consultant; Mark Soliven, Commerce One's consultant; Danny Cuevas, Commerce One's practice manager; Carol Carreon, BayanTrade president and CEO; Dante Briones, BayanTrade chief technology officer and Rhona S. Manguerra, BayanTrade's manager for professional services.

RCBC ACQUIRES SOLUTION FROM EBWORX

In an effort to serve its clients better, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) recently acquired an integrated delivery channel solution from leading e-business solutions provider eBworx. eBworx is a leading e-business solutions provider that specializes in providing end-to-end business solutions to clients engaged in e-commerce. Shown during the contract signing is (from left) Allan M. Tumbaga, vice president and head of marketing management division of RCBC, Lorna F. Evidente, senior vice president and head of information technology group of RCBC; Valentin Araneta, president and chief operating officer of RCBC; Steven Tan, chief executive officer of eBworx and Medy Camerino, president of eBworx Philippines.

SPANISH TOURISM PROMOTED

Spanish tourism campaign at Mandarin Oriental Miguel Nieto, director of the National Tourist Office of Spain based in Singapore, promotes Spain as a tourist destination during a campaign blitz among Philippine travel agents recently held at the ballroom of Mandarin Oriental, Manila. The campaign was undertaken in conjunction with the launch of direct flights to Paris via Air France and accommodations courtesy of the Spanish-owned Barcelo Group of Hotels and Resorts.

NEW SKAL OFFICERS

The Manila chapter of SKAL International, a global organization of top executives from the travel and tourism sector, elected a new set of officers for 2001-2002. The new board is led by Philippine Airlines president Avelino L. Zapanta (seated, third from left) as SKAL Manila president. Also elected were (seated, from left) Evelina Estrada of Strategic Network, secretary; Larry J. Cruz of Hotel Intramuros, vice president; Frankie Lagniton of Travel Post, public relations officer; and Robert Dee of Pan Pacific Travel, treasurer. The rest of the board include (standing, from left) Ken Graham of Asiaworld Direct, international counselor; Rene Ocampo of Levan Travel and Tours, immediate past president and ex-officio member; Zet-Zette Papa of World Wings Travel and Tours; Eduard Hoogeweegen of Bayview Park Hotel; and Alice San Juan of Rajah Travel, directors.

BMW Phils. to launch new Bimmer products this year

BY VERNON B. SARNE

FANS of the Ultimate Driving Machine, read carefully. Following is what we can expect in the coming days from the Munich-based carmaker which started marketing operations in the Philippines last April 1.

BMW Phils. president Mark Gilbert revealed that several new Bimmer products are arriving soon. On May 30, in fact, Gilbert said his company will host the presence of BMW AG chief executive Joachim Milberg as they launch the 3-series touring coupé and convertible (2.5-liter, 6-cylinder) and the Z3 (2.2-liter, 6-cylinder). For sheer driving pleasure, a 3.0-liter Z3 will also be available.

The much-awaited X5 sport-utility will come in a 3.0-liter diesel package. It will be available in the last quarter. Asked if he thought the Philippine market is ready for a diesel-powered SUV, Gilbert assured us that "this BMW diesel is state-of-the-art. It's not diesel that you experience here. This is a car with incredible torque and quite high horsepower for a diesel. The torque alone makes it arguably one of the most enjoyable cars to drive. There's nothing traditional about its diesel engine when you listen to it."

GILBERT

Indeed, these are exciting times to be a BMW fan.

"I am confident that BMW sales in the Philippines will continue to increase over 2001 as new models are released throughout the year," Gilbert said, while boasting that BMW's market share for the first quarter of this year is up 6.8 percent from the same period last year.

BMW Phils. is the fifth sales subsidiary of BMW AG in Asia after Japan, Korea, Thailand and Indonesia. BMW, previously represented here by Asian Carmakers Corp., holds 70 percent of the venture with the remaining 30 percent going to ACC owner Jose Ch. Alvarez. ACC remains as its local-assembly partner.

FORD'S new dealership

Ford opens Quezon Avenue dealership

FORD Motor Co. Philippines brings in its brand of quality service and tough line of products northwest of Metro Manila as it opens its Ford Quezon Avenue dealership located on Quezon Avenue corner Apo Street in Quezon City.

Set on a 2,200-square meter area, the two-story dealership had been sketched to take on a new design. Drawing attention to its spherical showroom, it flaunts two Ford vehicles—just high enough to be seen on the busy streets.

Part and parcel of the world-class facilities and remarkable service that come with every dealership is Ford's peculiar way to pamper and perk up customers while they wait. Customers who wish to drive through the dealership for a quick fix can also enjoy a cup of coffee or tea at the dealership's espresso bar or a good movie at the mini theater. Those who stop by for a longer chat can sit back and get all cozy and comfy at the customer's lounge.

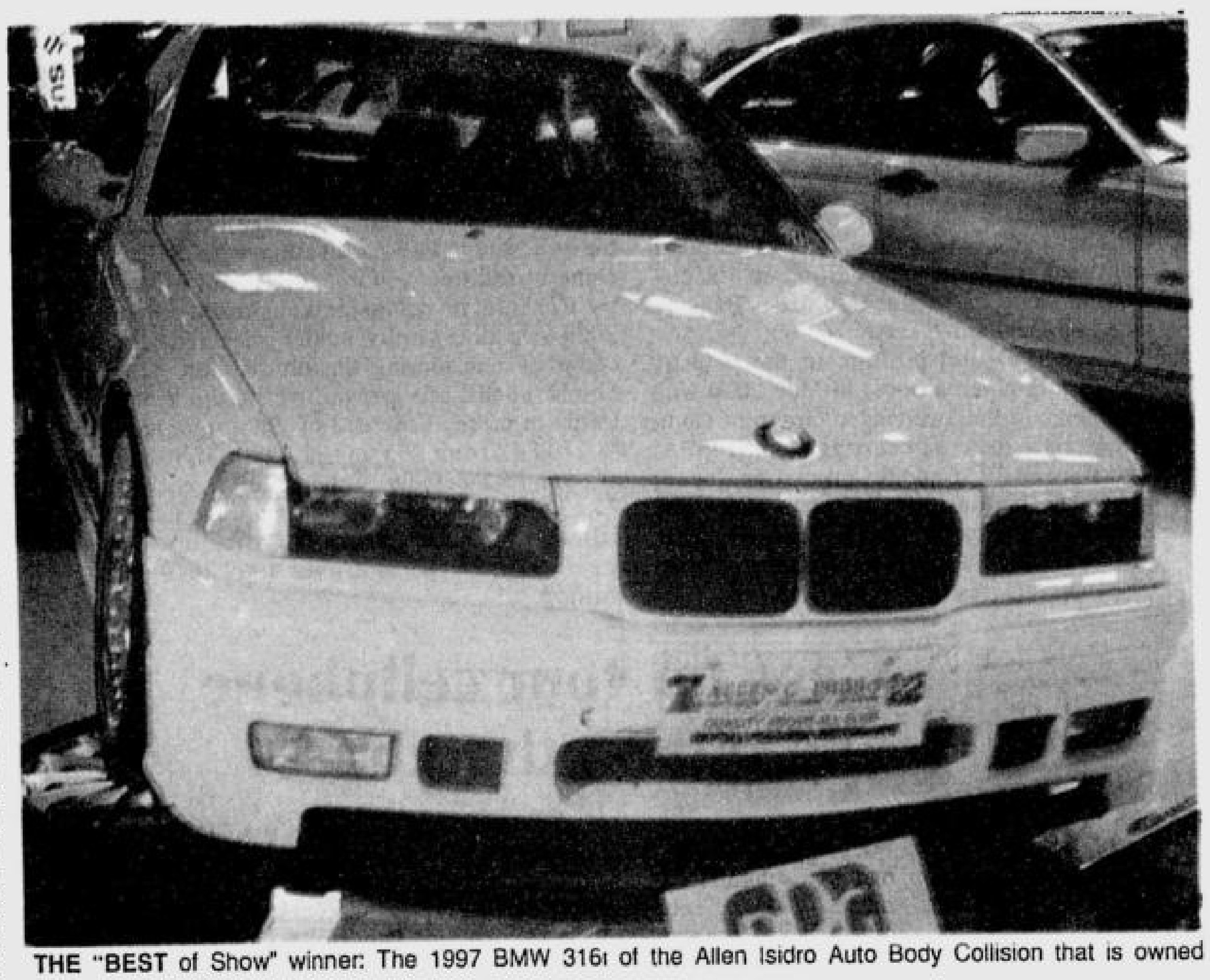
"Our mission is to be the leader in customer satisfaction by offering the absolute best in quality, service and convenience," said Benjie Yukimtiao, president of Ford Quezon Avenue.

Wayne Booker, vice chair of Ford Motor Co., is the guest of honor during the formal opening. He assisted in the transition to Ford's new management team in 1999, especially in the new markets and business development in growth markets such as the Philippines.

Ford Quezon Avenue, the ninth in Ford's growing roster of dealership locations in the country, is projected to cover Ford sales in Quezon City and customers from other surrounding areas, being a Ford dealer northwest of Metro Manila.

The dealership carries Ford's product lineup that currently includes the Expedition, the Explorer Sport Trac, Chateau Wagon, F-150, the Ranger, the Lynx and the Lincoln Town Car.

Prized attractions at Trans Sport Show


THE "BEST of Show" winner: The 1997 BMW 316i of the Allen Isidro Auto Body Collision that is owned by Larry Ignacio.

CAR buffs had a blast at the successfully staged Trans Sport Show 2001, which showcased the dreamiest cars in "retro-modern" style at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall and brought into focus a wide collection of cars that was a feast for the eyes.

Earning a prestigious place in the winners' circle at the Open Class Car Competition was the 1997 BMW 316i entry of the Allen Isidro Auto Body Collision that is owned by Larry Ignacio.

Apart from bagging the plum "Best of Show" award, the same car also won the "Best in Paint—European Entry" award and first place in the "Contemporary European Sedan" category. It was also adjudged to have the "Best Modern Interior."

Among the standout car entries were the '96 Mini Cooper by Citadel Motors—Reserve Best of Show and first place, Retro; '97 Mitsubishi Lancer by Hannah Auto Center—Best in Paint-Japanese entry and first place, Japanese Compact Pro modified 1; '64 Sunbeam Alpine by Ben Silvestre—first place, Vintage; '72 Volkswagen Beetle by Aldous Paints & Body Works—"Best Classic Interior" and first place, Classic; '89 Toyota Corolla by DC Autosport—first place, Post Classic Sedan; '96 Porsche Carrera by L&C Motors—first place, Contemporary Sports.

The winners also included the 2000 Honda Sir by JCB Body Shop/1st Station Auto Detailing—first place, Millennium Entry; '99 Honda by Shaun Neil Redica--first place, Japanese Compact Super Modified; '95 Nissan Sentra by Marikina Auto Center—first place, Japanese Compact Pro Modified 2; '94 Honda Civic by Gaspeed Race Car—first place, Japanese Hatchback; '91 Mitsubishi Galant by Xtreme Auto Center—first place, Japanese Midsize Pro Modified; '99 Honda Accord by Radiant System Tech—first place, Japanese Midsize Super Modified; '97 Mitsubishi Lancer GLX—"Best Engine Display"; '98 Mitsubishi Lancer by Kai Racing Sportz and '99 Honda Civic by Tire Boy/A-Toy Body Kits—"Best Body Kit"; and the '81 Chevy Corvette by Filcarrozerria—"Most Popular Car Award."

Trans Sport Show 2001 was presented by Caltex Havoline Energy, with Siemens as platinum sponsor, and R-M Diamont, Formula 1, and Dayco as gold sponsors.

Major sponsors included Outlast Super Premium Battery, Sunrise Holiday Concepts, Daktronics, Digital Resource Corp., and Infobahn Communications Inc. Other sponsors were Pharmaton, BMB Karaoke Super Band, Pioneer, 105.1 Crossover, 89.9 dwTM, 99.5 RT, 103.5 K-Lite and 88.3 Citylite.

The support organizations included The Manila Sports Car Club, Miata Club of the Philippines, VW Sport Club, Porsche Club of the Philippines, Volkswagen Club of the Philippines, MG Club, BMW Z Club Philippines, Philippine International Karting Association and the Philippine Motor Association.

Toyota summer promo ends May 31

TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corp. heats up the summer festivities with its newest offering, the "Zero-in On Your Echo" promo. The Echo and the Echo Verso have received tremendous market reception, especially from the young market. Its postmodern pop-art design and radical features have instantly made the Echo and the Echo Verso the icons of the future generation. These exciting vehicles are now made affordable by Toyota Motor Philippines through an array of special value financing deals, cash subsidies and surprise giveaways.

The promo is offering various financing deals Toyota customers can choose from. Echo and Echo Verso buyers can avail of the zero-interest scheme payable in 24 months for just a 50 percent down payment. This easily translates to a brand-new Echo for just P13,000 per month for two years for a down payment of only P312,000. Buyers can also opt for a low down payment scheme for 12, 24, 36, 48, 60 and 72-month payment terms apart from a one-year comprehensive vehicle insurance giveaway.

All the special financing deals are made possible by Toyota in cooperation with the country's leading financial institutions—BPI Family Bank, Metrobank, PS Bank and RCBC Savings Bank.

Cash buyers of the Echo and the Echo Verso, on the other hand, never had it so good with the package of incentives Toyota is offering. All cash buyers within the promo period are automatically entitled to a free insurance courtesy of FEB Mitsui, an accessories gift certificate and an additional cash bonus.

What's more, the Toyota Verso is now fitted with leather seats at no additional cost, courtesy of Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. The interior of the Verso has been made more exciting with its supple and comfortable leather seats that will surely comfort the driver and passengers alike. The Verso's seats also allow a number of layout arrangements to fit whatever cargo you have.

There are also a number of wild summer colors to choose from for the Echo and Echo Verso. The Echo comes in quick silver, extreme black, bohemian ochre, caribbean aqua and jazz blue. The Echo Verso, on the other hand, is available in cosmo red, kool kristal and surf blue.

The Toyota Zero-in On Your Echo promo will run until May 31, 2001. For more information, please visit your nearest authorized Toyota dealer.

STP boosts fuel performance in your car

THE FUEL is the life-giving blood of the car, mobilizing the vehicle's performance in every drive. If the fuel is not performing efficiently, the engine will not start up quickly or warm smoothly, and heavy residues will be left in the engine and the oil.

Likewise, unsuitable gasoline produces burning gases, which lead to heat and pressure causing excessive pressure and "knocking." This will result in the loss of power and severe engine damage.

As such, fuel must be stable to keep the fuel handling system and engine in good condition. To keep fuel stable and to enhance its power, certain substances are added to the gasoline and diesoline—called additives.

Fuel additives help fuel cope with all the demands placed on it. These may include rust inhibitors and additives to provide upper cylinder lubrication, reduce wear and prevent spark plug fouling. Other additives inhibit icing caused by the freezing of water in the fuel line, or of moisture, in the carburetor.

Some after-market fuel additives contain corrosive chemicals that may be harmful to fuel system components or internal engine parts. One brand stands out for producing the most efficient fuel additives: STP (Scientifically Treated Petroleum).

STP's fuel additives product line does not contain any corrosive components, alcohol or chlorine-based lubrication compounds. Instead, the scientifically treated formulas remove performance-robbing deposits in the engine valves and fuel injector, and further enhance the fuel's performance.

The STP family of fuel additive products includes the following:

- **Gas treatment**—This is specially formulated to fight the accumulation of harmful carbon, gum and varnish deposits in the fuel system that can reduce performance. It is also engineered to remove water, which could lead to power loss.

Used regularly, STP Gas Treatment helps save gas by keeping the fuel intake system clean. It also boosts the cleaning performance of gas and prevents water accumulation.

- **Fuel injector and carburetor cleaner**—This is formulated to maintain a smooth running engine by preventing accumulation of deposits that can lead to hard starts, lost acceleration and rough idling. It cleans critical areas such as carburetor air bleeds and throttle body; as well as injector pintles.

Used regularly, this product helps keep the fuel system free from harmful deposits, prevents power loss and maintains optimum engine efficiency.

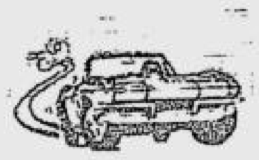
- **Octane booster**—This dual-action formula boosts your gasoline's octane for immediate performance, and cleans up fuel intake systems and combustion chamber deposits that cause an octane requirement increase (ORI). Regular use helps stop "knock and ping," and restores power and performance. It also reduces hesitation, rough idle and stalling, and saves gas. It contains no alcohol and is safe for catalytic converters and oxygen sensors.
- **Diesel fuel treatment and injector cleaner**—This provides control of filter plugging and deposits in diesel engines. It helps keep injectors clean and extends injector life. It also provides effective rust control in fuel shortage systems, promotes fuel color stability and allows rapid water separation.

The STP Diesel Fuel Treatment also improves the handling properties of straight run and cracked middle distillate fuels by providing pour point reduction and improved pumpability and filterability at low temperatures. It even reduces exhaust smoke.

Of General Abenina and Teddy Cruz

FULL TANK

Al S. Mendoza



I HAVE heard so much about how strict Brig. Gen. Edgardo M. Abenina is in his style of running the affairs of the Land Transportation Office. The newly appointed LTO chief has been running after the so-called scalawags at the agency, incurring the ire of even some of the top brass from his own turf.

If you ask me, I like the general's style. He has promised to rid the agency of misfits and fixers who are in cahoots with top officials of the LTO. In fact, I must commend President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for her resoluteness in appointing General Abenina to the LTO post.

Here are some thoughts of General Abenina:

Asked what he felt after GMA appointed him LTO chief:

"Embarrassed, excited and motivated. Embarrassed because I did not know what to say, how to go on and how to start. My initial thought was: I am going to a reputedly corrupt agency of the government and I would not like to be tarnished by corruption. I asked myself: Am I capable of handling this kind of task? Am I prepared to do it? Will I be credible when I speak about the things I'm going to do and when I speak about what I want to do, not for me but for the government?

"Remember I am member of RAM, the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa. RAM has always spoken of good governance and this is what we want. I, being the chairman of RAM, cannot be less than what we are talking about and what we are hoping and dreaming for our country to have one day. Since I said this is a challenge, a personal challenge to me and a challenge to RAM, I am more than willing enough to dare. And here I am, I'm daring the problem and hopefully I'm able to cope with the problem as the problem comes."

What is the general's vision for the LTO?

"I want the people to perceive the LTO as a dedicated agency of the government, oriented toward service and assistance to the people who have problems and business to do with the LTO. I want people to perceive the LTO as an ordinary office of government where undertakings are being done not because the LTO wants it but because the people want it done—meaning the LTO is the servant of the people and not the LTO the master of the people. That is our essential vision for our country—that the government and the people in government are servants of the people. But on the other hand, we want the people to understand that while they are the masters of the government, they also have responsibilities for the government and that is to obey the law. They must respect the legal laws of the country and they must respect also their fellowmen in order that everybody will get the same service equally from the government. What is happening now is this: because they are rich, they get better service and because they are poor, they don't get service at all. Rich or poor, everybody deserves equal attention from the government and government employees."

What are the general's plans for the LTO?

"Reputedly, the LTO is a corrupt agency of the government. So I ask myself: What is the problem? Is the problem the people in the LTO or is the problem the LTO itself? Or maybe the system in the LTO breeds corruption because people are trying to seek the wrong way of getting benefits from the LTO. When I came over, I found out that the problem lies in the system of the government here in the LTO and among the bureaucrats themselves who are here in the LTO. Government officials even to this time sometimes have these grandiose feeling that because they are government officials they enjoy that supreme authority to rule over the people; that the people must bow down to them because they are the center of power, which is all wrong! The center of power are the people and the government officials are there to serve the people according to the laws that have been passed by the government as approved by the people. When I realized this, I found out that the law is being interpreted by government officials according to the letter but not according to the spirit and intent of the law."

Get the drift, fellas?

I guess we finally found the right man for the job.

* * *

Joey Nolasco, our managing editor, said he was pleasantly surprised to find that the roads from Dagupan City to Alaminos, Pangasinan, were that nice. He discovered the beauty of Pangasinan's roads when he went down from Baguio to Hundred Islands via Damortis, La Union.

I was almost tempted to tell him, "Hey, much of the credit for that comfortable ride must go to Teddy Cruz."

Cruz is the representative of the second district of Pangasinan (he is running for governor) covering Binmaley, Lingayen, Bugallon, Labrador and Sual, towns that you will pass by before you hit Alaminos.

On his way to Manila from Alaminos, Joey had to retrace his route before turning right to Socony in Bugallon for the two towns of Aguilar and Mangatarem connecting Tarlac; again, smooth roads all the way for Joey's entourage.

Not to brag, Joey, but Pangasinan is really noted for its well-paved roads.

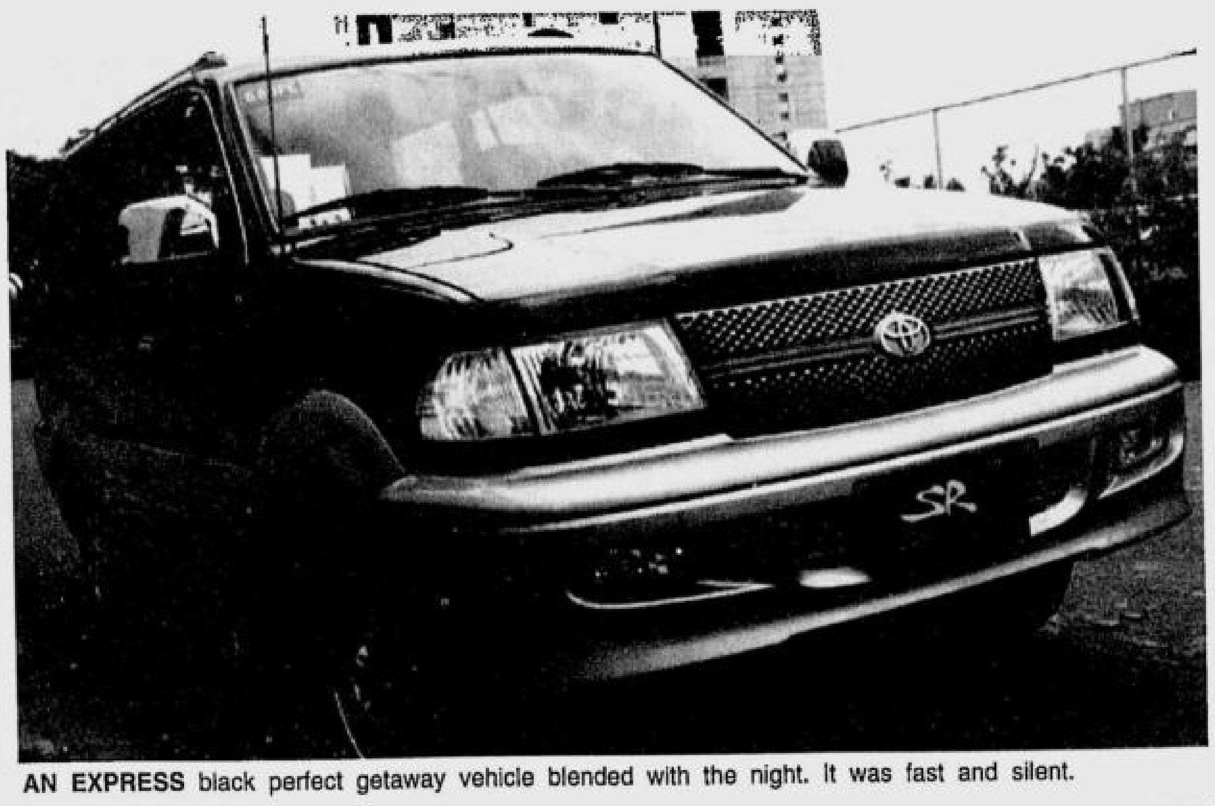
I can't say the same to the other highways of the country.

* * *

QUOTE ME: Drive safely as that is a good habit, as good a habit as voting wisely.

'State of rebellion' in a Revo SRJ

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR



AN EXPRESS black perfect getaway vehicle blended with the night. It was fast and silent.

SRJ IS fully "armed." It has large crystallized multi-reflector headlamps and fog lamps, industrialized mesh-type front grille, 15" alloy wheels and overfenders, sidestripes and cladding, roof rail, rear spoiler and third brake lamp.

PHOTOS BY MIKE ALQUINTO

TOP-OF-THE-LINE Revo SRJ has leather seats.

A REVO SRJ was the getaway car of a "breakaway" group.

"30 April 2001, 0430 hrs. Amid violent clashes around Malacañang, the Edsa Shrine area in disarray, soldiers arriving in trucks, 12 unidentified persons decided they had had enough and declared their own "state of rebellion." A breakaway force was formed.

Snorkels, flippers, goggles and refreshments in hand, this breakaway group headed North via the Balintawak exit. Their "APC" (absolute people-carrier) was an A/T unit from Toyota: an express black souped-up Revo Sport Runner-J. The 2.0-liter gasoline engine, black-as-asphalt body tone served the perfect getaway vehicle—it blended with the night, it was fast, it was silent. And it was fully "armed," with large crystallized multireflector headlamps and fog lamps, industrialized mesh-type front grille, 15" alloy wheels and overfenders, sidestripes and cladding, roof rail, rear spoiler and third brake lamp.

Communications with outside forces was crystal clear: It had a tilt-adjust Alpine radio-cassette with 6-disc CD changer.

But how on earth did 12 robust "defectors" fit inside a 10-seater SRJ, with all that luggage and "war" equipment?

Well, suffice to say that space was just a state of mind. As they said of the Filipino motorist, any available space is well worth utilizing, both on the street and in the vehicle.

Nobody among the 12 defectors wanted to be left behind. Like the PPC party, it was 12-0 or nothing. This unit was all set to go invade Iba, Zambales, for some beach fun come hell or high water. Never mind if the four-hour trip to Iba, Zambales, would be arthritis-inducing both to the 12 passengers and the vehicle itself.

Three passengers were seated in front (a seatbelt for the middle passenger was very welcome). Four were seated in the middle section, and five were cramped in the back along with the cooler and luggage.

The CD changer proved to be a big disappointment, though. The Alpine indicator said "no magazine." "Sabotage!" Someone yelled from behind. At first the group thought a loyalist had infiltrated the CD player. A disc was stuck inside the player. One member—a CD Mcgyver—got wounded trying to retrieve it. Man down! Man down!

The group contented itself with tuning in to the radio during the entire trip. The AM radio reported violent clashes in Manila. But the group resolved to continue northward.

SRJ's handling was smooth in the zigzags of Zambales province. Despite the cramped conditions, and despite being an A/T, the engine never showed any signs of struggle, even during sudden accelerations and during overtaking. The SRJ even seemed to like the loaded feel. The turning radius was admirably small, as it did several U-turns on narrow country roads.

The breakaway group had to endure several stopovers, however, to give the members a chance to stretch and assess the situation.

Even during noontime at summer, the powerful dual air conditioners kept all the corners of the vehicle cool and comfy. The smooth leather seats eased the weary rear ends of the 12.

After overrunning one beach resort in Iba for a day, the breakaway group decided to "surrender" to the demands of city life. Reluctantly, we returned to Manila early morning of May 2. By this time, too, the siege of Malacañang was over.

Cost of E-Pass tag should be refundable

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

THE OPINION of many motorists that the E-Pass tagkit is overpriced has been confirmed by news from Australia. According to an article ("E-Pass to Link Bridge, Tunnel and Tollways") from The Daily Telegraph of Sydney dated March 20, 2001, thoughtfully faxed to this column by reader R.H. Davila, the e-toll system is being introduced on the bridge, tunnel and M5 motorway in Sydney. But, unlike here in Metro Manila, what the motorist pays for the tagkit will be refunded. The article by Kelvin Bissett states: "As in the other tollways, motorists will be asked to pay an initial A$40.00 **refundable deposit** for their tag plus A$60.00 credit to the e-way account from which the toll is deducted." (underscoring supplied)

If Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp. were to follow Australia's marketing strategy and make the P1,100 price of the E-Pass tag a refundable deposit, consumer resistance to the E-Pass would fade away quickly. Citra would be able to recover its huge investment in the E-Pass system faster because there will be a hundred thousand new subscribers replenishing their E-Pass value cards sooner at P500 minimum each. Another way for Citra to entice more motorists to subscribe to the E-Pass is to lower the price of the tagkit to a nominal level, such as P50 or P100. This would save Citra's accountants the extra work of processing refunds.

The point to be clarified here is that consumer resistance to the E-Pass continues not necessarily because not all Filipino motorists can afford the P1,600 (P1,100 for the tagkit, P500 for the value card) initial cost. Nor because we are a bunch of tradition-bound jurassics who won't accept progress and new technology. More likely, it's because we believe that Citra is soaking us on the price of the tagkit. And it's because Citra compounded its pricing error by suddenly taking exit lanes from us toll-paying motorists and converting them into dedicated E-Pass lanes for the exclusive use of E-Pass subscribers. Citra ostensibly did this to encourage cash users to "migrate" to E-Pass use faster, but apparently did not bother to conduct market research to find out how the motoring public might react.

Far from encouraging migration to the E-Pass, Citra's exclusive E-Pass lane policy has discouraged it. The discriminatory move resulted in longer lines of cars on the remaining cash exit lane while the E-Pass lane was rarely used. It also worsened the traffic jams on the South Luzon Expressway. While stewing in their cars, toll-paying motorists had ample time to stiffen their resolve not to bow to what they perceived as harassment to coerce them into buying the overpriced E-Pass. If Citra continues to ignore the problems it created with its exclusive E-Pass lanes, motorists' resentment can grow into a full-blown consumer boycott of the E-Pass.

It's a pity that Citra bungled the job of marketing the E-Pass because of the potential that E-Pass technology offers. In the United States, where the E-Z Pass system was introduced six years ago, they're already talking of using, within a year or so, an E-Z Pass credit-card device (cost: about US$60) to pay for everything from a hamburger to airline tickets. According to Newsweek, the E-Z Pass device can be customized by downloading applications, such as the McDonald's application, from the Internet, then driving through the restaurant without paying cash.

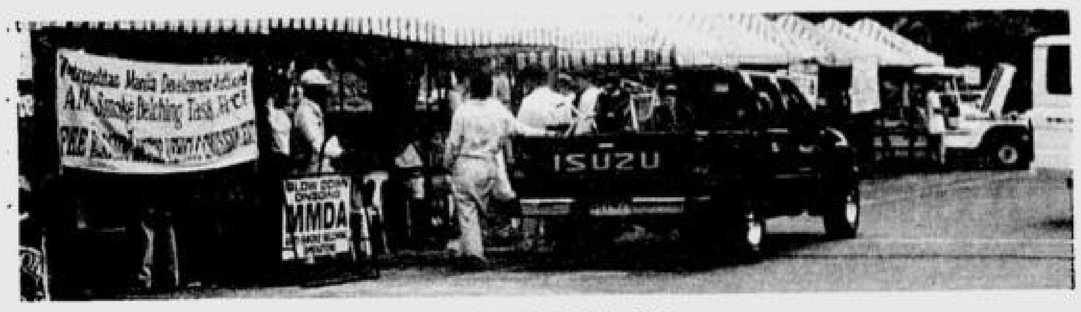
But the way Citra is carrying on, the futuristic wonders of E-Pass technology will never come to pass (pun intended) in this part of the globe because the E-Pass, Citra Metro Manila Tollways-marketed version, will be a financial disaster.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Go to heaven for the climate, hell for the company.—**Mark Twain.**

* * *

E-mail comments to aida_sevilla@pacific.net.ph



ISUZU JOINS PARTNERSHIP FOR CLEAN AIR

A pickup is being inspected by Isuzu technicians, members of the Metro Manila Development Authority, the Land Transportation Office and the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. This is part of a public service offering free smoke emission testing and engine diagnostics to all vehicle owners and drivers.

New engine treatment offers 7-in-1 advantage

THERE'S a big reason for motorists to rejoice these days. It is because the Uniq engine treatment formula is now available in the Philippine market. Thanks to Uniqpoint Marketing for bringing in from the United States, under a special trading arrangement, the engine treatment formula that can outperform all the leading oil additive and engine treatment brands in the market worldwide.

The Uniq engine treatment formula works by adhering to the metal surface, penetrates the internal parts of the engine and becomes an integral part of the engine alloy, thus eliminating metal-to-metal friction—a superior antidote to engine wear caused by extreme heat pressure resulting from friction. Among the results are fuel economy from 10 to 30 percent; engine wear reduction of up to 400 percent; increase in engine power and performance from 20 to 30 percent; smoother engine operation; and easy starting even in cold weather conditions. The results also included harmful emission control from 5 to 20 percent; engine friction reduction up to 800 percent; operating temperature reduction up to 40 percent; oil viscosity improvement up to 60 percent; and engine maintenance savings from 200 to 400 percent.

Early birds who witnessed the incredible friction test performance of Uniq engine treatment in the ongoing Trans Sport Show at the SM Megatrade Hall in Mandaluyong City, were simply amazed at how this newly introduced engine treatment could outdo such leading brands in the market. Based on actual friction tests conducted on ½ HP X 300 rpm friction tester, the Uniq engine treatment registered 350 ft lb, while the closest brand could only attain as much as 77 ft lb.

Uniq engine treatment is engineered, tested and proven in the United States. It is highly recommended for all types of mechanical and internal combustion engines. It is environment-friendly and contains no ptfe (or teflon), molybdenum, graphite, silicon, sulfur and other harmful chemicals and is available in 240 ml bottle, which is good for a 4- to 6-liter engine oil.

Uniq engine treatment is exclusively distributed by Bizcom International Corp. and is now available in leading auto supplies, supermarkets and gas stations.

Car games to keep kids occupied on long trips

PLANNING to bring the kids along on a long trip? Yes, the task can be a bit stressful, especially when keeping the little ones in place for more than an hour. But as your road partner Isuzu Philippines Corp. puts it, traveling with the children can be an adventure.

It takes a few tricks to keep the kids occupied and entertained on your extended trip. Start by letting them pack their own bag of snacks. Drop by the grocery and let the little ones take a pick on their favorite munchies and refreshments. This way, the kids will surely be elated about the whole trip.

Likewise, a medley of car games proves to be a very potent means to entertain the youngsters. Games are welcome diversions to pass the time, keep the kids absorbed, and even educate them! The great thing about car games is that children of different ages can play and enjoy them. Here are awesome pastime plays you and the kids can enjoy on a trip:

- **Name game**—This is a simple game perfect for kids of all ages. A player thinks of a name and tells the group whether it's a boy's or a girl's name. The player reveals the first letter of the name and lets the group guess by pinning down all the names they can think of which start with the corresponding letter.
- **Theme song game**—A person hums the tune of a favorite TV show, cartoon or commercial and lets the others guess. The one who gets to guess right does the next song.
- **Transportation name game**—Someone starts by naming a means of conveyance such as airplane. The next player must name a vehicle whose name begins with the last letter of the former vehicle. Since airplane ends with E, a player may say elevator. And so on. In this game, the players may make use of brand names such as Hi-lander or Trooper, depending on the players' age bracket.

These fun car games will surely make the children even love the idea of long trips. Don't be surprised just when you get home, they'd probably go panting for the next extended travel!

We can describe the Mercedes-Benz Vito in many ways, but we'd rather say it in one word.

Different.

Mercedes-Benz Vito L 110 CDI

▸ The CDI diesel engine incorporates a fuel-efficient, revolutionary common-rail direct fuel injection and four-valve technology.

▸ The Vito offers plenty of room for 10 passengers and sufficient luggage space.

▸ The Vito's ergonomic cockpit with automatic transmission and joystick controls are neatly and clearly arranged and convenient to operate.

▸ The Mercedes-Benz Vito is strikingly different, with everything carefully thought out, from form to function. Compactness. Dynamic Power. Smoothness. Economy. Low Noise Emission. Safety. Experience mobility with a difference.

Mercedes-Benz

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MOTORING

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Dip in auto sales caused by holidays, uprising

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

SALE!
ERAP 4 LIFE

THE CHARTS are going downhill.

That's how one would best describe the automotive industry sales performance from January to April 2001 as compared to the same period last year.

The automotive industry sales performance that dipped 14.7 percent was attributed by the industry to less selling days brought about by the holidays, the continuing political instability, the market's new pricing levels and the union strike of major assembler Toyota Motors Philippines.

These factors, revealed by automotive analysts, are just some of the reasons. They added that April and May were considered "flat months" since consumers were preoccupied with the summer vacation that peaked in the Lenten season. The situation was followed by the late-April "People Power III," which eventually led to the Labor Day riot in Malacañang.

Toyota Motor Philippines agreed that April and May were lean months.

"These were summer months—a long lull. People go out of town, their minds preoccupied with vacations," said TMP media relations officer Ariel de Jesus. He added that May was also a slow month because people tended to save up for school opening-related expenses. Come June, De Jesus believes vehicle sales would be ready to pick up again.

In the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc.'s year-to-date report, January to April 2001 figures showed the automotive industry sold 23,134 units as opposed to 27,109 units during the same period last year. April 2001 overall sales performance was 16.4 percent lower compared to the same period last year with 5,120 units in April 2001 as opposed to 6,128 units last year.

Asked about Revo sales that dropped to 475 units in April compared to 846 units last March, De Jesus said that prior to the Toyota employees' strike, the Revo was averaging nearly 900 units a month since the start of 2001.

"The trend can be attributed to the plant's closure (during the strike). There was delayed production, but right now we're back to normal and we're going overtime to fill in outstanding reservations that piled up last month," he said.

Finance firms open up

Campi's secretary general Mario de Grano, however, said that he remains optimistic despite the sales decline. His reason is that the financing industry has been opening up lately to consumers.

"Banks and finance companies are becoming less selective now," he said. Mitsubishi Motor Philippines Corp.'s first vice president for marketing Mel Dizon agreed, saying that despite the gloomy outlook, the good news has been that financing is becoming easier to access.

"Banks and auto financing companies are getting more aggressive even as they have become smarter from their experiences in the past," said Dizon.

Time to adjust

Dizon added that the market needs more time to adjust. He said that vehicle prices have gone up because of the exchange rates, and that "it is taking the market a little bit of time to adjust at the new pricing levels."

Dizon also said that despite the industry's overall downward trend, Mitsubishi managed to become steady and has, in fact, topped the assemblers' top sales performers for April. He added that the local company has proven its stability "through thick and thin" and has "somehow withstood the ups and downs better than our competitors."

He cited its AUV Adventure sales improving significantly, along with its light commercial vehicles such as the L300 chassis cab, vans, Mitsubishi Exceed, Pajero and Strada.

Traditional leaders

The industry's April 2001's 5,120 units sold, meanwhile, was 19.1 percent short of March 2001's sales result which was 6,328 units. January to April 2001 top automotive assemblers are still led by traditional leaders Toyota, Mitsubishi, Honda, Isuzu, Ford and Nissan.

Top sales performers for April were Mitsubishi, Toyota and Honda.

SUBARU Forester

General Motors expands RP mart

GENERAL Motors Corp. through its local subsidiary, GM Automobiles Philippines (GMPh), expands its market in the Philippines by launching the country's first sports safety vehicle (SSV)—the Subaru Forester.

Strategic alliance

The launch of the Subaru Forester is the result of the strategic alliance forged between GMC and Fuji Heavy Industries in 2000 when GMC took a 20 percent equity stake in FHI worth US$1.4 billion. As part of the alliance, GM AutoWorld, GM Philippines' retail and service network, will distribute Subaru cars, beginning with the Forester.

Said Bassil Drossos, executive director for Asean and India, General Motors, Asia Pacific (Pte) Ltd.: "The GMC-FHI strategic alliance allows for broad cooperation between two global automakers to collaborate in the design, development, distribution and manufacture of cars, trucks and related technology. FHI is a key component in GMC's strategy for industry leadership in the Asia-Pacific region, including in the Philippines."

Drossos adds, "The synergistic partnership will make both GMC and FHI more formidable companies in an increasingly competitive global market place."

First business unit

The introduction of the Subaru Forester in the country also marks GM Philippines as GMC's first business unit to introduce the Subaru Forester under this alliance, adding another brand to GM AutoWorld's excellent roster of prestigious car brands such as Chevrolet, Opel and Suzuki.

Said GMPh president and general manager Harold Koh: "The Philippine automotive market constitutes 5.3 percent of the SUV segment. With the growing demand for small SUVs in the country, especially among the AB market, coupled with the Subaru Forester's unparalleled driving performance, I am sure this all-road vehicle will dominate the small-sized SUV market-niche."

The Subaru's brand concept of "active driving, active safety" incorporated in the Subaru Forester's trademark all-wheel-drive (AWD) and horizontally opposed engine technologies are known worldwide. These features, which are inherent in Subaru cars, are what make the Subaru brand consistent winners in world rally championships.

We're having a party and you're invited!

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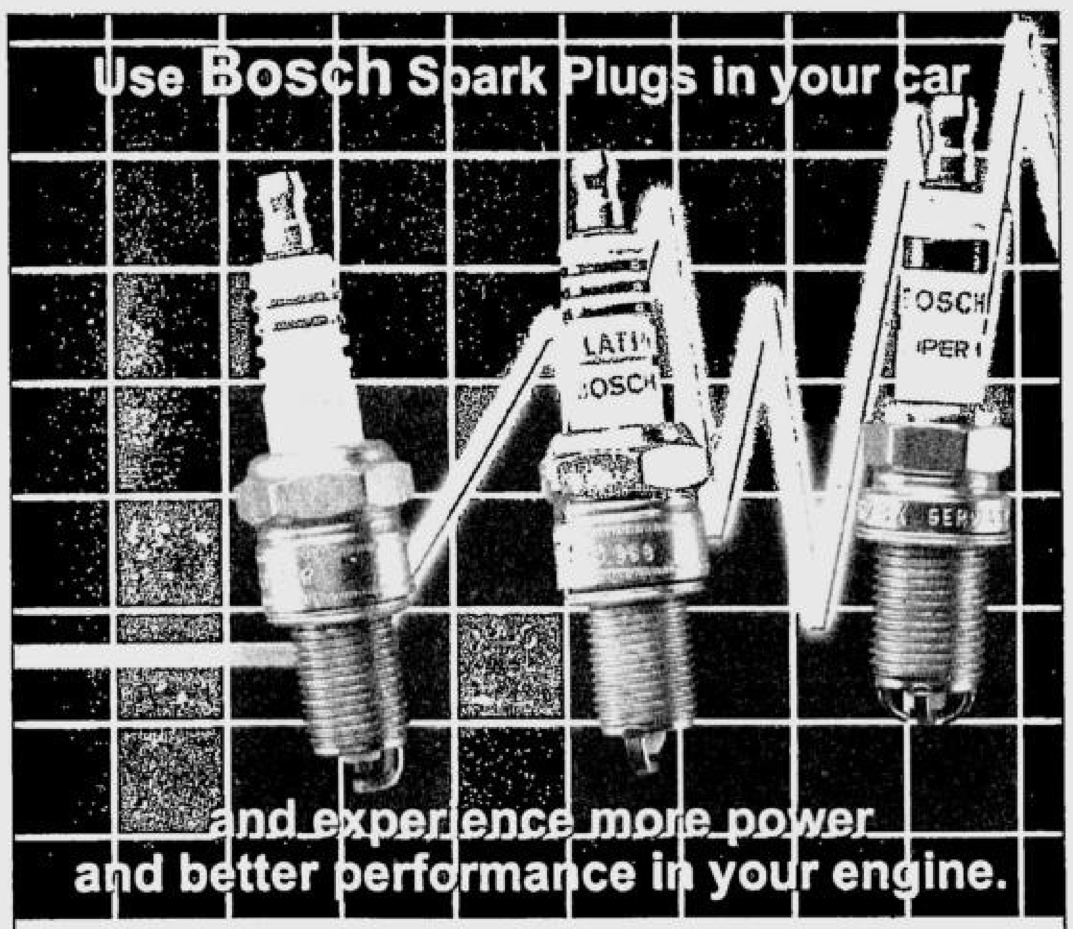
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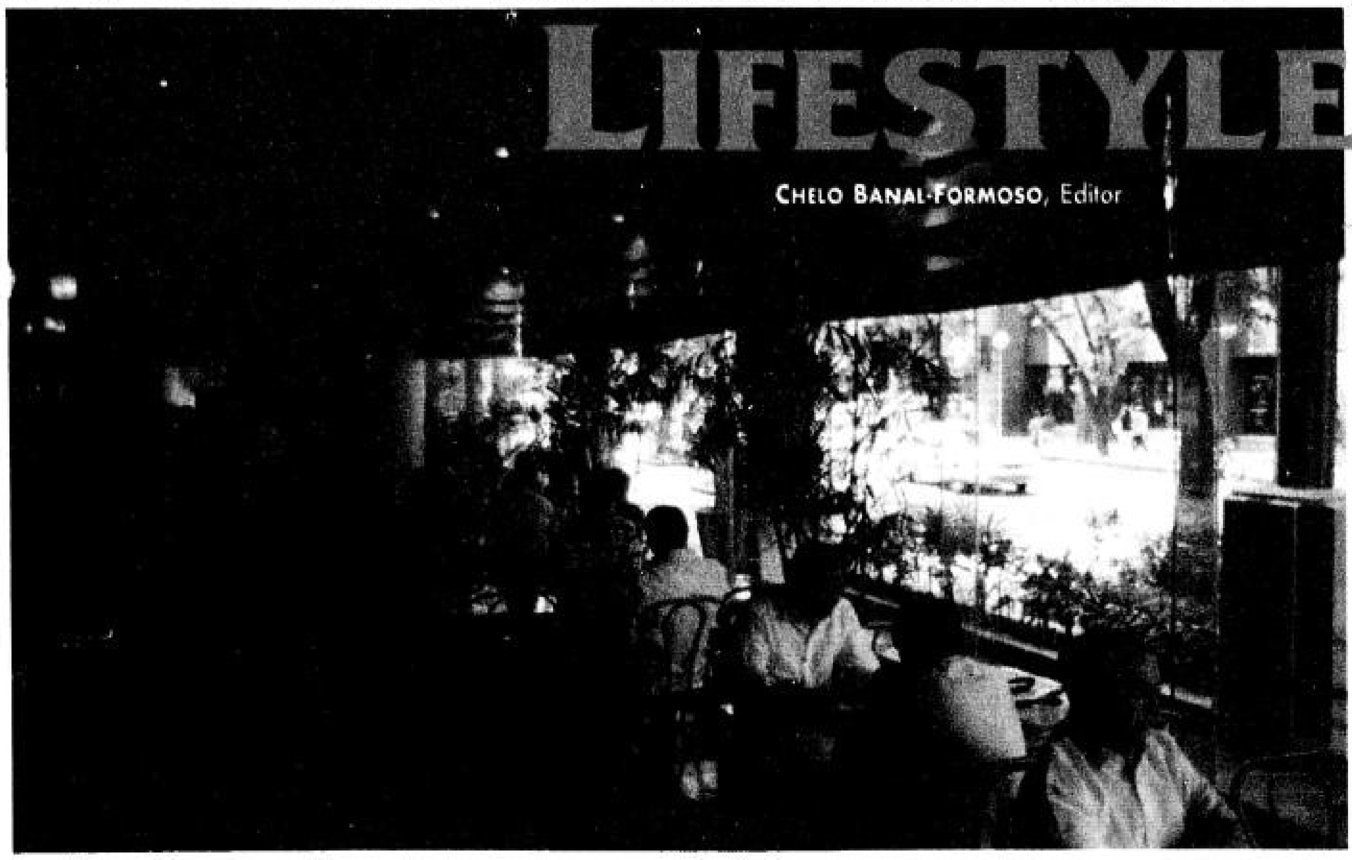

CAFÉ WITH A VIEW. Café Rizal in the Greenbelt Mall, Makati

Tastes

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Café Rizal revisited

A coffee restaurant evokes good old memories and serves all-time favorites

By Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Romy Homillada

THERE used to be a cinema where Shangri-La Makati now stands and it was called Rizal Theater. Next to it was Leila's, which closed its doors in 1986 but reopened in the Greenbelt Mall as Café Rizal after two years.

I remember being a kid and catching a movie with my parents at the Rizal Theater in Makati and afterward partaking of a delicious dinner at Leila's. Usually, we would have Beef Salpicado and Blueberry Cheesecake.

When I was all grown-up and working for the airline across the street from Greenbelt, I was delighted to find that the old Leila's had metamorphosed into Café Rizal. Thankfully, my good old favorites were still on the menu and, even more delightful, the waiters were from the old Leila's.

Evolution

Ten years hence, I found myself one late morning in the vicinity of Greenbelt Mall, drawn to the old café to indulge in an old favorite. Upon entering its doors, I realized that much had changed interior-wise but the warmth and friendly service were unchanged.

Sitting by the window, I browsed the menu and couldn't help but smile at the memories that it brought to mind. The Salpicado Rizal (tenderloin cubes and button mushrooms flavored with a special sauce) of my childhood was there. Chicken Inasal (charbroiled chicken, the Ilonggo way, served with fresh *lumpia ubod*), Japanese Medley (beef teriyaki and shrimp tempura), Crispy Calamares (crispy squid rings served with special tartar and honey-mustard) were favorites when I was still with the airlines.

"Majority of our diners are now third-generation," Baby Cuizon, a member of the family that owns Café Rizal, explains. Thus, Café Rizal has also adjusted to the changing needs of its clientele. Where before it was mainly known for coffee shop food and homely service, Café Rizal has now evolved into both a family restaurant (on weekends) and a place to unwind (after 8 p.m. on weekdays). Cuizon says that to capture the after-dinner crowd, Café Rizal has acoustic nights on Fridays and jazz fusion on Tuesday-Thursday. Special appetizers complement these special evenings.

On weekends, Café Rizal transforms into a family place when Dads, Moms and kids enjoy the sumptuous buffet, reasonable at P300 per head. A salad bar, appetizers, five courses, soup, a wide array of desserts, which includes gelato ice cream, bottomless iced tea and even coffee or tea, are included in the buffet price. A clown and some popcorn for the kids add to the festive ambiance. Cuizon suggests advanced bookings as these family weekends at the Café can get pretty crowded.

Superb service

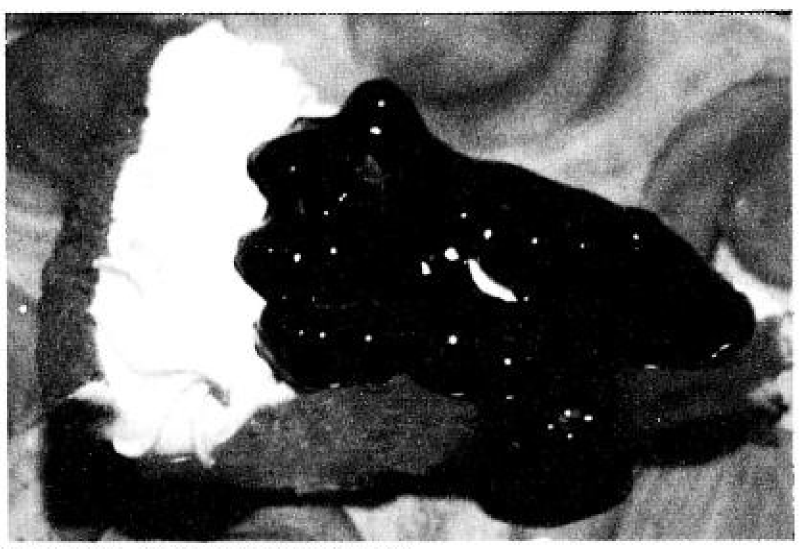
One thing to appreciate about Café Rizal is how they have been able to keep their staff happy throughout these years. Cuizon talks about "empowering" their staff. Thus, waiters and supervisors are sent to customer service, personality/sales development as well as leadership seminars on a regular basis. "They are like family to us," she says. "We also ask them to celebrate their special occasions with us—baptisms, weddings, birthdays so that their families can also get to see where they work." Most of the staff who used to wait tables at Leila's and are still at the Café now supervise the juniors.

Cuizon recalls an instance when they had to scour Greenbelt for a particular brand of bottled water because the patron (who was a regular) would not take anything else. "It's a good thing the waiter was able to get a few bottles from one of our neighbors," Baby chuckles. "Another time, a regular was also looking for some Peppermint tea. It's a good thing there was a Crabtree shop just a few doors down."

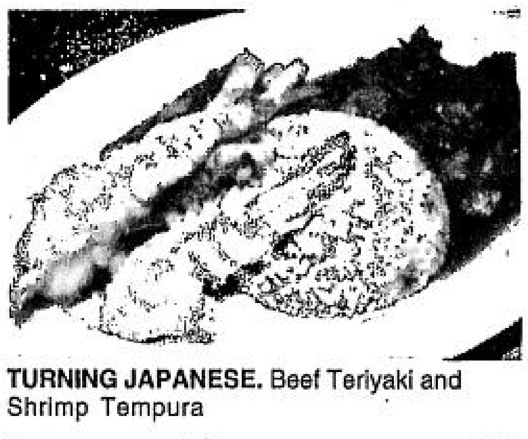
Details like these give you an idea about how well Café Rizal takes care of its customers and why these regulars have stayed loyal to them. Old habits, as they say, die hard.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

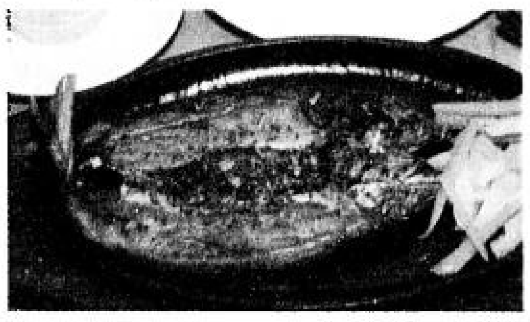
OLD FAVORITE. Salpicado Rizal



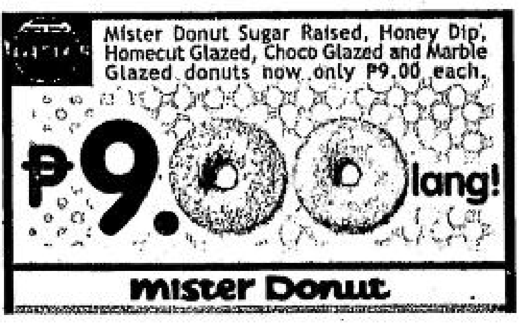
CLASSIC. Blueberry Cheesecake



TURNING JAPANESE. Beef Teriyaki and Shrimp Tempura



GO FILIPINO. Boneless Bangus with Garlic



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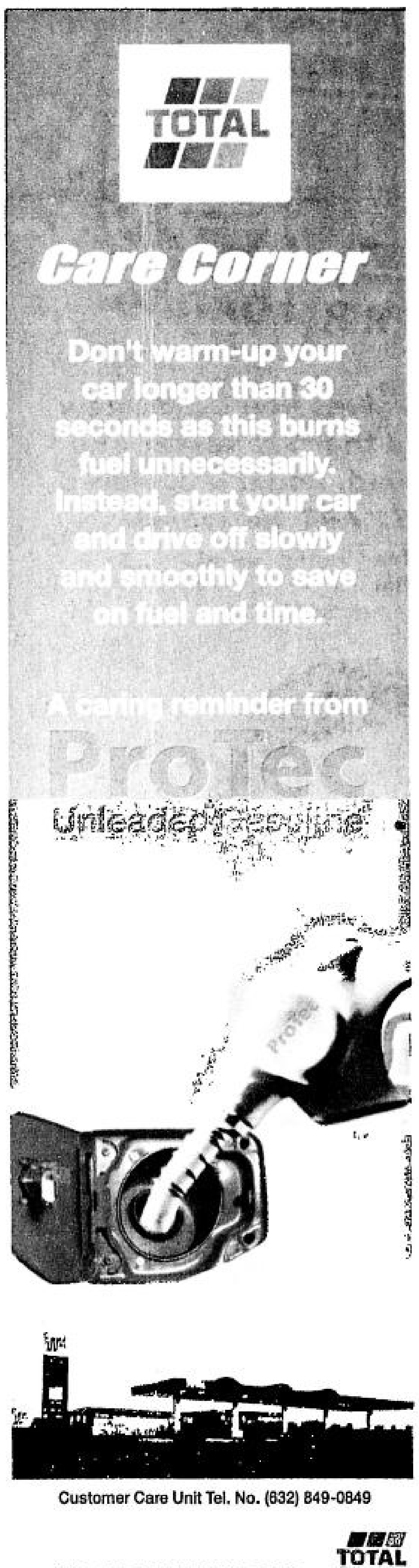

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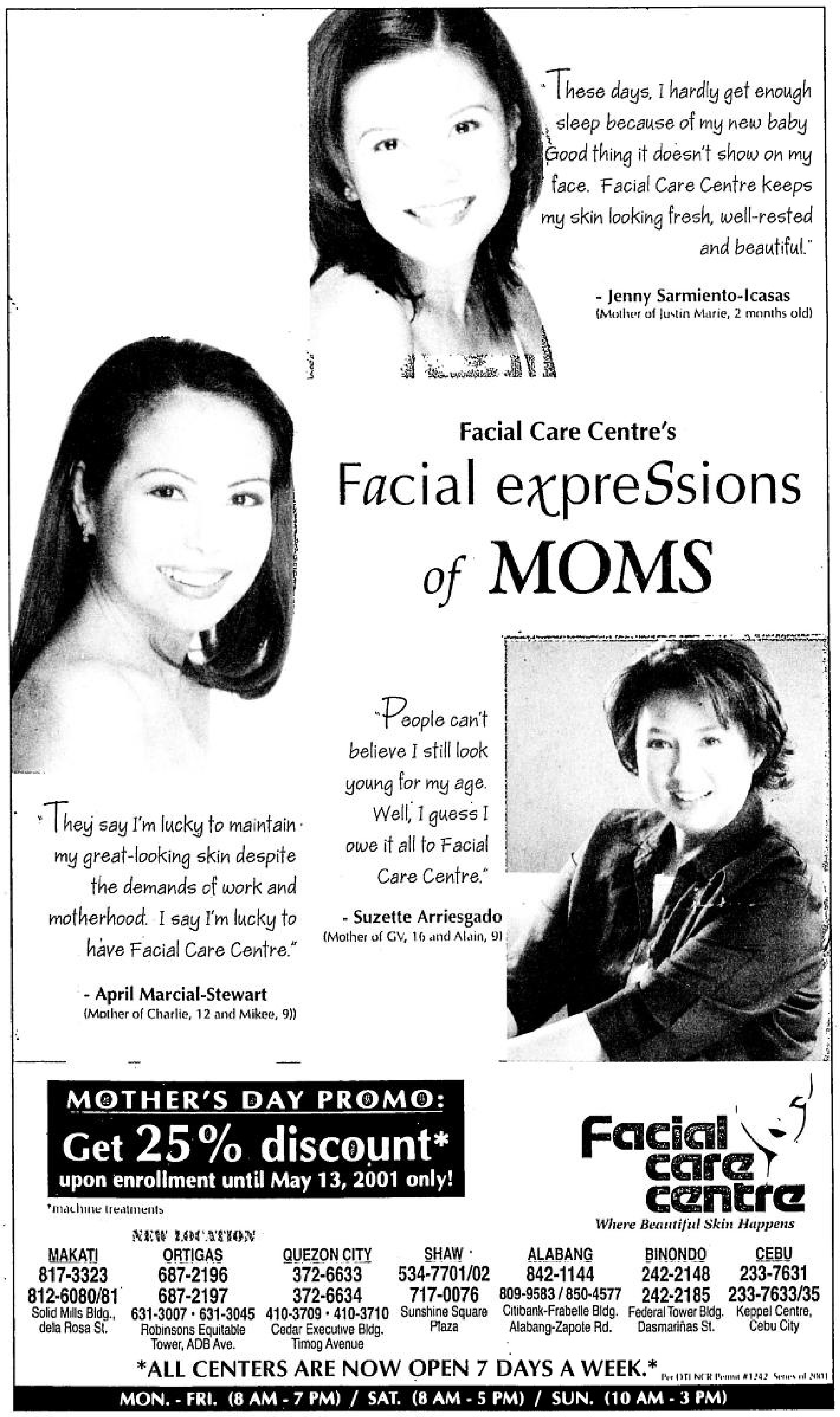

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Happy Mother's Day from Johnson's baby

LUMPIANG Bangus

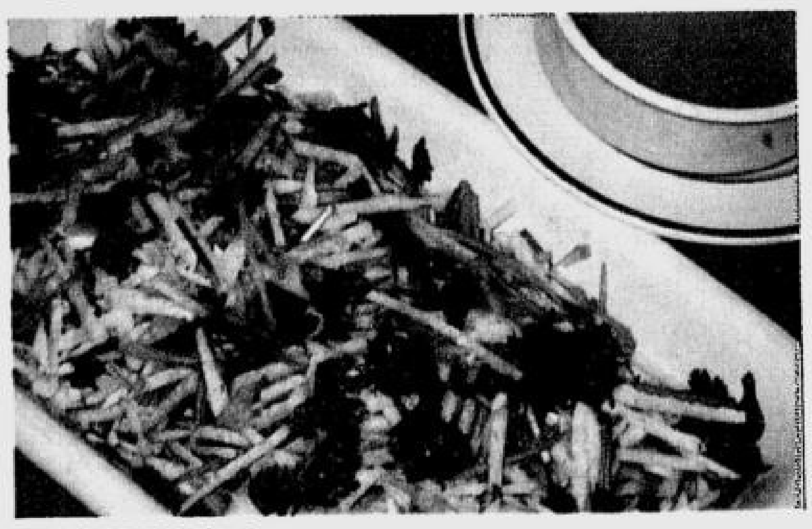
Two Pinoy recipes for Pinoy moms

EVERY mother gets a Pinoy Deli gift pack at all Cabalen Restaurants when she dines with a group of five on Mother's Day, May 13.

The Pinoy Deli corner carries delicacies from all over the Philippines. Its latest offerings include in-house brands like Cabalen Taba ng Talangka, Cabalen Ginisang Bagoong, Cabalen Burong Hipon and Cabalen Sweet Chili Sauce.

On the P242 eat-all-you-can buffet of Capampangan specialties are Fish Fillet Salad, Acharang Labanos, Ensaladang Singkamas, Lumpiang Bangus, Asadong Pusit, Humba Liempo, Pork Spareribs, Bringhe (Arroz Valanciana), Bagoong Rice, Buko Pandan Salad, Taho and Sorbetes.

Cabalen shares two recipes with the readers:



ENSALADANG Singkamas

Ensaladang Singkamas

1 pc medium turnip (*singkamas*), cut into strips
1 pc small carrot, cut into strips
¼ c wansoy
Sauce:
1/8 c fish sauce (*patis*)
¾ c vinegar
½ c white sugar
1 pc native hot pepper

Wash all vegetables, drain thoroughly. Peel and slice turnips into small strips. Do the same with carrots. Set aside. Slice wansoy 1-inch long and set aside. Mince hot pepper and set aside.

In a clean bowl, toss sliced turnips, carrots and wansoy. Transfer in a rectangular or round ceramic bowl. Serve with sauce.

Sauce preparation: In a casserole, combine all ingredients for sauce except native hot pepper. Bring to boil for 2-3 minutes. Remove from fire. Pour in sauce bowl and add minced hot pepper. Ready to serve.

Lumpiang Bangus

1 kg back *bangus*, skinless
¼ c celery, diced small
2 pc white egg
1 tsp whole black pepper, ground
½ c flour
5 c cooking oil, Minola
½ c carrots, diced small
½ c onion red, diced small
1 tbsp rock salt
80 pcs *lumpia* wrapper
½ c water

Remove skin of back *bangus*. Finely chop skinless back *bangus*. Wash, peel and cut carrots and onions into small dice. Dice celery. Set aside. In a clean mixing bowl, combine chopped back *bangus*, carrots, onion, celery, ground black pepper, salt and white egg. Mix well and set aside.

Dissolve flour to water. Stir until smooth in consistency (paste-like). Wrap in *lumpia* wrapper the *bangus* mixture, paste end to seal wrapper. Deep fat fry until cooked (low fire). Drain oil. Cut 2 inches long. Serve with sauce.

Cabalen's eight restaurants are located at West Avenue, QC; SM Megamall, Mandaluyong; Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati; Robinsons Place, Ermita; Katipunan Avenue, Blue Ridge; SM City North Edsa; SM City Manila and Sta. Lucia's Brick Road, Cainta.

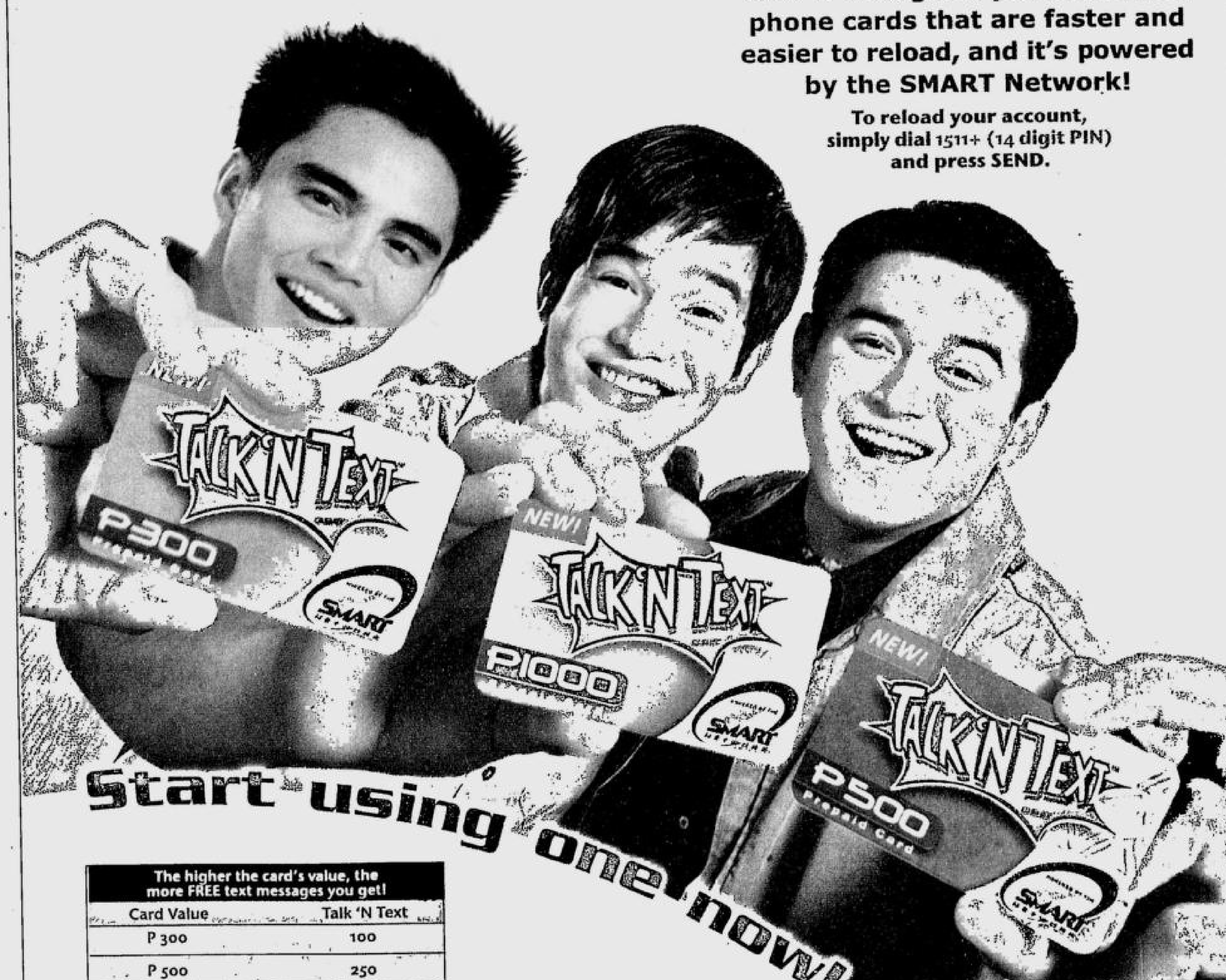
Promo gives 20 percent off on donuts

DUNKIN' Donuts is giving its customers a great treat—a whopping 20 percent discount on all Dunkin' Donuts doughnuts and munchkins to celebrate its 20th anniversary.

"Giving our loyal customers 20 percent discount is our modest way of thanking everyone for their continued support and patronage," said Core B. Lugtu, Dunkin' Donuts product manager.

With Dunkin' Donuts' commitment to continue providing quality products and service, every Filipino will definitely enjoy celebrating 20 years of Dunkin' goodness with Dunkin' Donuts Pasalubong ng Bayan. The Dunkin' promo is ongoing until May 15 at all participating Dunkin' Donuts outlets nationwide.

BELGIAN chef Frederic Scailteur is the new instructor for Patisserie and Bread Baking at the Center for Culinary Arts, Manila, located at 287 Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights, QC. An expert on sugar and chocolate creations, Scailteur has won many awards. He recently conducted a short baking course where he showed his skills in patisserie and in teaching the intermediate level of cake baking.



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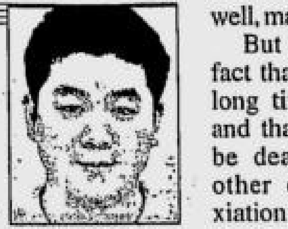
Food phobias

THE MAD TEA PARTY



Clinton Palanca

AT THE HEIGHT of the scare about "mad cow" disease, I went to a Korean restaurant, and, after asking the head waiter about the provenance of the beef that they used, proceeded to order raw beef salad, stewed beef spareribs and beef strips grilled at the table. This was not an act of deliberate defiance; I'm rather fond of beef, and this is what I usually order at a mid-range Korean restaurant. My dining companions stared at me as though I were, well, mad.

But aside from the fact that 20 years is a long time from now, and that I'll probably be dead from some other cause (asphyxiation from riding my Vespa behind buses, too much Dormicum, a blood clot from too many flights on Northwest's economy class), I don't see why a European bovine disease should affect a Southeast Asian diner eating Australian beef. The world may have shrunk, but unless the Eurotrash cows are regularly shuttling back and forth for dalliances with the Freisians in New South Wales, there is no reason to panic.

Rumors

The wholesale fear, panic and general hysteria is not generated so much by misinformation (I followed the newspaper reports closely, and all of them carefully localized the disease as a European phenomenon) as the public's very willing desire for fear, panic and general hysteria, especially about food. Everyone has heard rumors about Kentucky Fried Chicken using mutant chickens with six legs, or that Jollibee hamburgers are actually made from earthworms, or that Orbitz and Zagu's powders are carcinogenic, or that *taho* is actually made from plaster of Paris, or that oyster sauce will make you convulse and eventually explode, and so on. Without having to quote Barthes or Levi-Strauss (or, more truthfully, an unwillingness to root through my piles of books to find the exact reference), it all brings us back to the whole idea that food is either good or bad, that it will heal you or kill you, that it will save your soul or send you to eternal damnation.

The other day, a friend whom I had met in Paris was in town for a few days, and she invited me to a dinner-party that her parents were giving. The caterer was Fernando Aracama of Uva. The meal began with an entrée of fish in crab fat on sticky rice, cooked in little banana leaf boxes; then came a sweet-pea panna cotta; pan-seared foie gras on poached turnips in a mushroom broth; a *kamias* sorbet; poached ("*pesang*") fish (salmon and sea bass) with fermented bean curd; and for dessert, tiny inverted cups of *suman* with tuiles and ginger ice cream.

This bald recitation of ingredients and courses and flavors makes the whole thing seem fiddly-diddly, over-intellectualized Filipino fusion cuisine of the sort that is trotted out by those who have axes to grind about New Philippine Cuisine and innovation and who need something exotic yet urbane to exhibit at international food festivals; in other words, food that sounds good but is actually somewhat inedible. This one wasn't: the flavors blended; the courses built upon one another as an arpeggio; the lightness of the main course was capped off with a cymbal crash with the rice-and-ice-cream dessert. Throughout the meal, amidst the polite murmurs about the food (at a dinner-party, you'll never know if your guests really enjoyed the food or not, because they'll always say it was wonderful), I noticed something odd: one guest continually used the words "sinful" and "divine" to describe the food. "My God, this is so bad for me, this will kill me," she said, and then eagerly tucked into the chocolate truffles.

Some of our food fears are supported by medical research. I don't doubt the simple truth that eating foie gras or six eggs every day will first make you grossly obese and then probably cause you to keel over at some point. There are some foods that will encourage (not cause) cancer. And I have no doubt that there are some preservatives that are being put into food that will not exactly make you healthy and strong. Have you ever wondered, though, why food that is supposedly good for you, like tofu, bran, boiled vegetables, steamed fish, and have I mentioned tofu, is usually disgusting and tasteless, while food that is good to eat is always bad for you? Ah, such is life, we say, philosophically, and reach for the toast. To which I say: No, such is the way that we think. It's a combination of ancient Judaic practices of classifying food as "clean" or "unclean," which then evolved and branched off and attacked us in a pincer movement: the puritanical Protestant idea, filtered through American influences, that self-deprivation is good for the soul; the Roman Catholic belief that if it feels good, it must be evil.

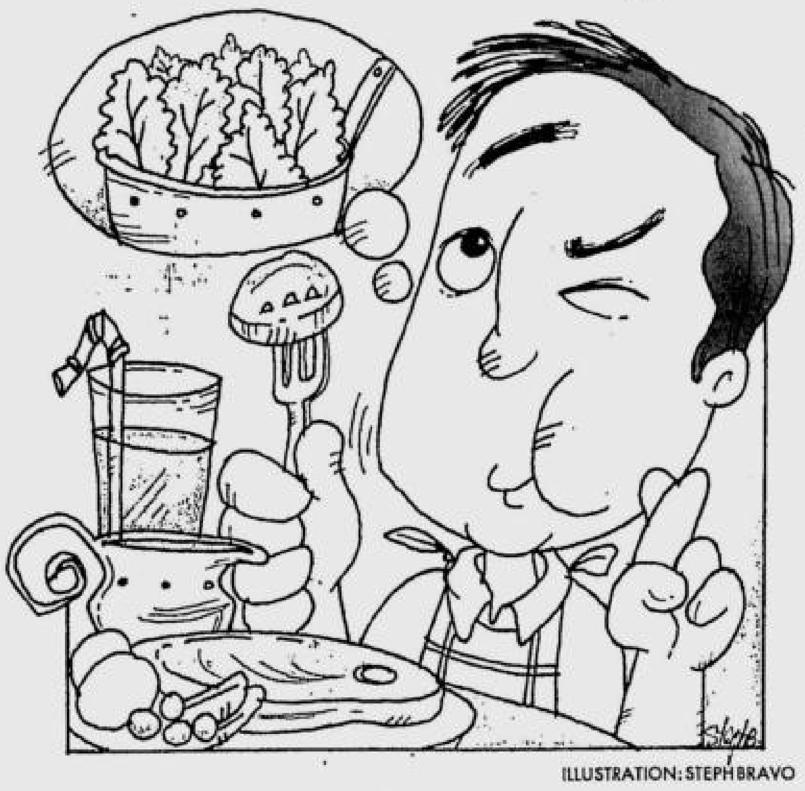


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

In other words, we invent values for food. In the same way that we feel an adulterous liaison can be atoned for by 30 Hail Marys and a donation to the parish, we feel that last night's rib-eye steak can be atoned for by steamed bok choi and Weetabix the next day. But the body's physiognomy functions like a machine, not like a confessional. The vegetables and bran make us feel better about the "sinful" excesses not because of inherent qualities, but because they taste bad.

> We invent values for food; in the same way that we feel an adulterous liaison can be atoned for by 30 Hail Marys, we feel that last night's rib-eye steak can be atoned for by steamed bok-choi the next day

Neither good nor bad

When I was teaching college freshmen, I ran into trouble with the authorities because I assigned novels that contained sex, and "sex is evil," they told me, exactly in those words. (Some of these freshmen, later in the semester, would come to me for advice, saying "How can something that feels so good be wrong?", exactly in those words.) When we enjoy good food, we feel that there must be payback of some sort. The more religious or superstitious may feel that the retribution will be moral or spiritual. Others, who pride themselves on their modern attitudes, believe the retribution to be physical; there is talk of linolenic acid and triglycerides, of procarcinogen and benzo(a)pyrene, but in the end the message is the same: what you enjoy now will eventually get back to you.

And then once in a while there's a scare like the threat of carcinogens in oyster sauce or pearl shakes causing brain damage (personally, I think the brain damage comes first before the desire for pearl shakes); and, of course, mad cow disease, which sounds appealingly biblical: eat a nice juicy porterhouse, and thou shalt be possessed by demons! It's very simple. If in doubt, don't; but once you've found out, then act accordingly. Generations have grown up eating *taho* from the streets, and I have yet to see anyone who has turned white and chalky from it. And eating fishballs (which is usually the *Assumptionista's* first sneaky act, to be followed by the cigarette in the bathroom, and later by making out with a *coño* from CSA) does not, as one girl earnestly explained to me, cause hemorrhoids.

It's time to chuck food phobias out the window, or at least get used to the idea that food is neither "good" nor "bad," but simply has certain effects on the body. It's not just information that we need, but new oppositions and dichotomies for classifying food. And finally, of course, as a friend puts it: everything in moderation. Even moderation.

E-mail the author at Clinton@i-manila.com.ph

Fast-food promo gives away cool prizes

COMPLETE your dining experience with fabulous prizes in Robinsons Food Court's "Cool Meals, Cool Wheels Promo," a chainwide fast-food promo ongoing until June 30.

It's so easy to join! Every purchase of any combo meal with a 16-oz Coke softdrink at any Robinsons Food Court outlet allows a customer to upsize their cola drink to a 20-oz large cup by simply adding P3. This purchase (the 20-oz large cup) will entitle the customer for a chance to win any of the following instant prizes: wristwatch, Coke truck toy, six-pack Coke in can, pencil set, Coke pen, tumbler, T-shirt, cap, notebook and notepad by flipping the lip of the cup.

Customers double their chances of winning by exchanging the lip for a raffle coupon. Big prizes at stake are Tamiya 4-wheel drive, mountain bikes, scooters and a brand-new Ford Lynx GSI. All prizes are tax-free. Draw date will be on July 10 at 4 p.m.

Call 633-9396, 633-7641 to 90, local 175 or 176.

Microwave cooking demo set at Megamall

ANVIL Publishing Inc. and Powerbooks, together with Maya Kitchen Culinary Arts Center and Whirlpool Appliances, bring a rare summer treat to homemakers and budding chefs this May.

Rory Subida and Imee Borres of Maya Kitchen will be conducting the Microwave Cooking Demonstration which will be held at National Bookstore—Powerbooks Megamall on May 12, 3-5 p.m. The demonstration will highlight recipes such as Ham Quiche, Mango Mousse and Honey Baked Chicken.

Maya Kitchen is the most prestigious cooking school in the country today. Its editors have written countless best-selling cookbooks such as "The Mix and Match Series," "The New Filipino Cookbook," "Sarap Pinoy!," "The Complete Guide to Baking," "More Cakes and Pastries," "Healthy Cooking for Healthy Eating" and a lot more. Call 671-9235.

Food classes at Brada Gallery

BRADA Gallery, founded by master chef Ed Quimson and partner chef Ronald Sampaga, is offering a class on Institutional Continental Favorites (Zarzuela de Mariscos, Steak Charlemagne, Grilled Lapu-lapu with Monk and Lemon Butter Sauce, Agachonas Adobadas (snipes), Engana Bobo) at 9 a.m. today and a class on wine appreciation at 2 p.m..on May 11.

Brada Gallery has also recently started their Children's Series of Cooking Classes, which will be held until May 12. Classes for the Children's series are held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9 a.m.

Quimson has worked in California, Florida, Spain and on a cruise ship. He has also worked at La Tasca, Via Mare, The Nielsen Tower, the Member's Lounge of the Philippine Stock Exchange and the Subic Bay Yacht Club. A features writer, he also runs the Rent-A-Chef Catering Service. He has also been teaching for 16 years now.

Sampaga has apprenticed with Quimson as pastry chef. With seven years' experience in baking and running a school canteen, he also serves as chef-partner and teacher at Brada Gallery.

Call 893-7677 or 815-2379 or visit Brada Gallery at the 5/F Creekside Mall, Amorsolo St., Makati City.

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(THANK YOU MAMA)

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Tel. Nos. 893-2307, 892-4456
Open daily 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM; 6:00 PM – 10:30 PM

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Heny Sison and Dorothy Ferreria
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Address ______________________
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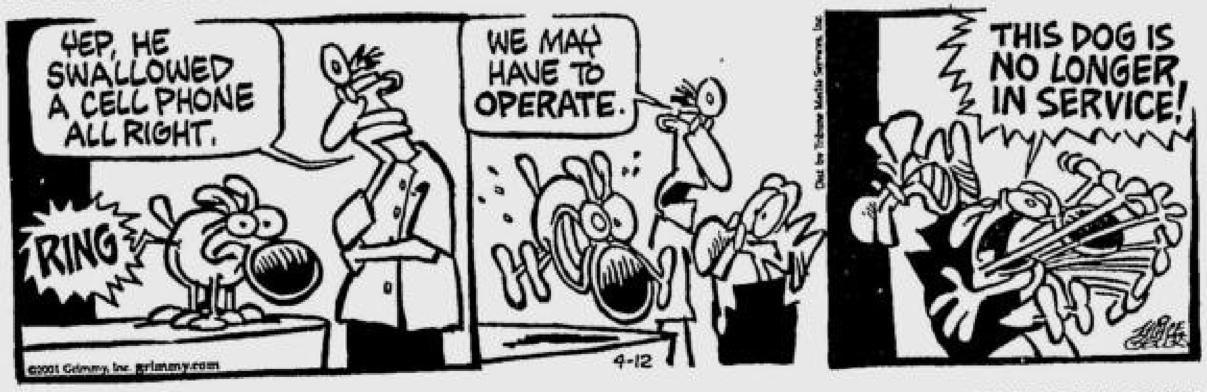
____
City / Municipality Zip Code
Tel. No. ______________

Nestlé Club
Good Food Good Life

PDI

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


YEP, HE SWALLOWED A CELL PHONE ALL RIGHT.
RING
WE MAY HAVE TO OPERATE.
THIS DOG IS NO LONGER IN SERVICE!
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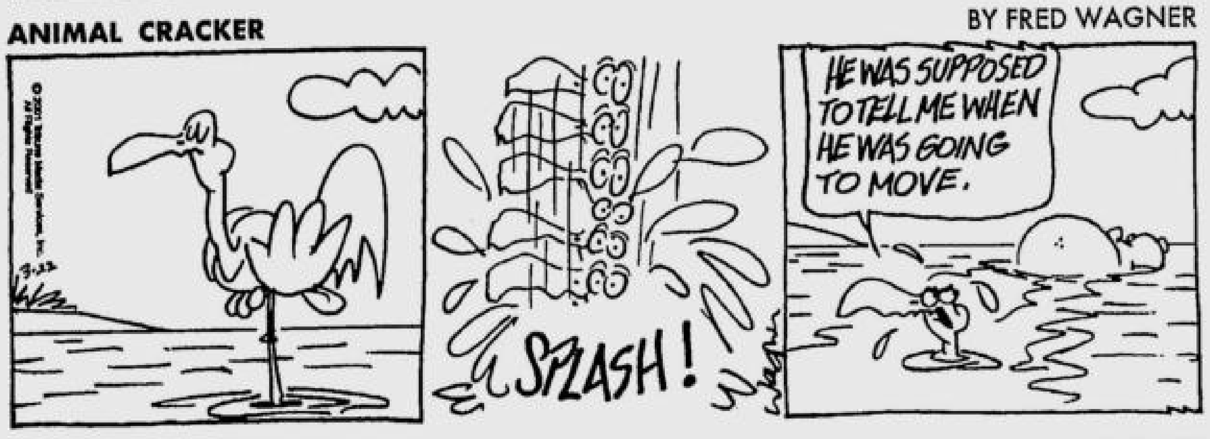
4-12
Dist. by Tribune Media Services, Inc.

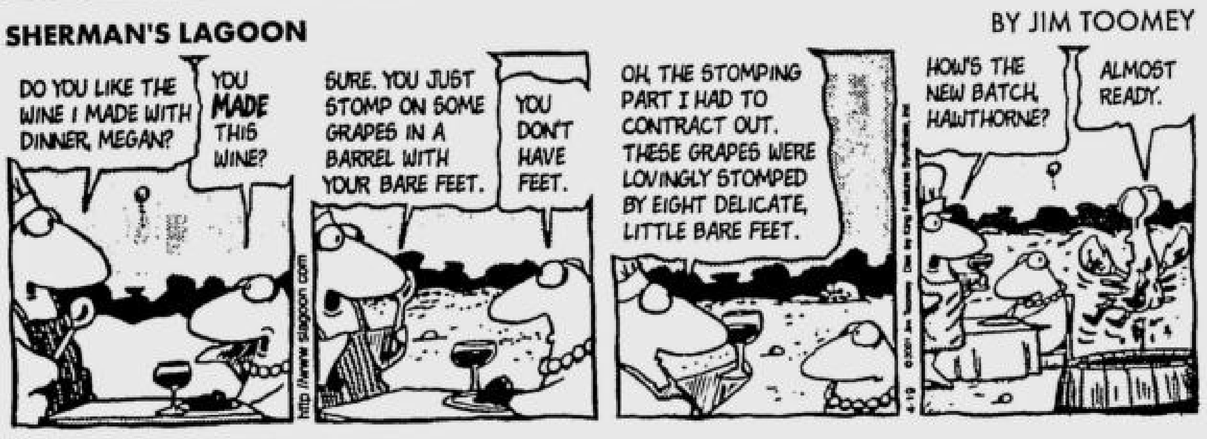
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


3-22
SPLASH!
HE WAS SUPPOSED TO TELL ME WHEN HE WAS GOING TO MOVE.

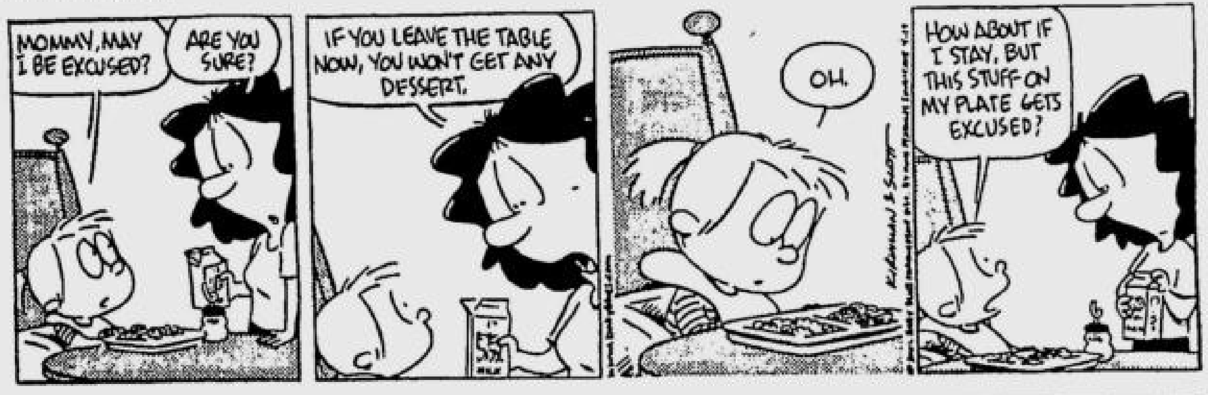
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


DO YOU LIKE THE WINE I MADE WITH DINNER, MEGAN?
YOU MADE THIS WINE?
SURE. YOU JUST STOMP ON SOME GRAPES IN A BARREL WITH YOUR BARE FEET.
YOU DON'T HAVE FEET.
OH, THE STOMPING PART I HAD TO CONTRACT OUT. THESE GRAPES WERE LOVINGLY STOMPED BY EIGHT DELICATE, LITTLE BARE FEET.
HOW'S THE NEW BATCH, HAWTHORNE?
ALMOST READY.
http://www.slagoon.com
4-19

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MOMMY, MAY I BE EXCUSED?
ARE YOU SURE?
IF YOU LEAVE THE TABLE NOW, YOU WON'T GET ANY DESSERT.
OH.
HOW ABOUT IF I STAY, BUT THIS STUFF ON MY PLATE GETS EXCUSED?
Kirkman & Scott

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Fred Astaire, Bono, Linda Evangelista, Kenan Thompson, Judith Jamison, Peter Newman

Happy Birthday: Begin by deciding what's really important to you this year. Once you have a clear picture of what you want to accomplish, the rest will be a piece of cake. Your high energy and active mind will lead you in a positive direction and bring the recognition and rewards you desire. Your numbers: 6, 14, 16, 22, 27, 31

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your quick wit will win you favors. Get involved in activities that present you with a challenge. It's time to pick up where you left off and finish those projects on the back burner.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your financial future is looking brighter. A better position may mean a residential move, but you mustn't make the decision by yourself. The rest of your family may not be so eager to leave.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Infatuations are confusing. Don't become involved in more than one relationship at a time. Choose your partner carefully. Take your time and don't let anyone pressure you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Present your ideas at work. Your concept for making your job more efficient will go over well with the boss. Co-workers will appreciate the work you've done and help you to implement your ideas.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Self-improvement projects will turn out well. Sign up for courses or join fitness clubs that offer a co-ed atmosphere. You can get into shape and meet interesting people at the same time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Hold on to what you've got. This is no time to gamble on personal investments. Emotional upset will disrupt your domestic scene if you've neglected your household duties.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Get out with friends. Old romantic interests may try to re-enter your life. Don't exaggerate or leave work unfinished. Minor mishaps will result if you aren't cautious.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Help the underdog. You may want to volunteer your time to a group you believe in. New romantic connections can be made while assisting those in need.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be emotional. Try to understand your lover's reason for being upset. You may be at fault for a situation that you're blaming someone else for. You'll end up paying the price.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't be too eager to let others know how you feel or what you're up to. Your anger will be hard to contain if co-workers or employers continue to take you for granted.

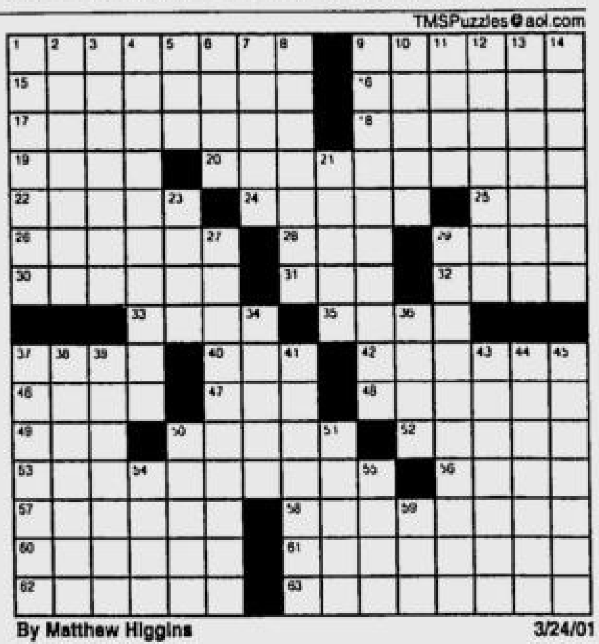
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't spend money in hopes that you'll make yourself feel better. Your depression is due to a lack of funds, and an added bill will only contribute to your misery in the long run.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Relatives and children will cost you dearly if you give in to their demands. Don't trust others with your possessions. It is wise to pass on lavish forms of entertainment.

Birthday Baby: You will be fast, energetic and hard to keep up with. You will amaze others with your speed, accuracy and relentless courage. You have a heart of gold and a spirited approach to life.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH

3/24/01

ACROSS
1 Suspicion
9 Neophyte
15 Not virtuous
16 One voice
17 San Diego eleven
18 Prance about
19 Poi source
20 One who strikes back
22 Homeric epic
24 Windshield cleaner
25 Undivided
26 Inhabiting still water
28 To's partner
29 Fencer's rapier
30 More anxious
31 Yang's counterpart
32 Earns a profit
33 Arabian leader
35 Lean to one side
37 Work units
40 Total
42 Wrath
46 Large store
47 __ Lanka
48 Figure of speech
49 "__ Got You Under My Skin"
50 Glances over quickly
52 Highway lodging
53 Limit of trees
56 Jeans man Strauss
57 Ohio city on Lake Erie
58 Washington, D.C. art gallery
60 Select social classes
61 Claim for oneself without right
62 Eateries
63 Designed once again

DOWN
1 Easily influenced
2 Drew breath
3 Frightening
4 Most guttural
5 Tease
6 Exploiter
7 Scatter
8 Bear witness
9 Branch of physics
10 Broadcasting sign
11 Elvis Presley movie, "__ Las Vegas!"
12 Form of an element
13 Fancy headband
14 Main courses
21 Doris Day movie, "__ in Paris"
23 Per __ (for each day)
27 Mark with intersecting lines
29 The study of insects
34 Rustic
36 Piece used for leveling
37 Sent forth
38 Filled pasta packets
39 Imaginary trouble-causer
41 Really compact auto
43 Verbatim
44 Raise
45 Put in new padding
50 Passover dinner
51 Night sound
54 __-noire (bugbear)
55 Blunders
59 Collapsible bed

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	O	L	O	■	A	G	A	N	A	■	U	L	A	N
O	P	E	C	■	G	L	U	E	D	■	N	O	L	O
F	I	N	E	T	O	O	T	H	E	D	C	O	M	B
T	E	S	L	A	■	B	R	R	■	I	O	T	A	S
■	■	■	O	R	A	■	Y	U	C	C	A	■	■	■
S	C	U	T	T	L	E	■	■	A	T	T	A	C	H
I	R	T	■	A	L	L	O	T	S	■	E	R	O	O
L	E	T	O	N	E	S	H	A	I	R	D	O	W	N
A	P	E	X	■	L	A	M	I	N	A	■	S	E	E
S	E	R	A	P	E	■	■	L	O	D	G	E	R	S
■	■	■	L	O	S	E	R	■	S	I	R	■	■	■
O	A	S	I	S	■	L	I	T	■	S	I	E	G	E
B	R	U	S	H	W	I	T	H	T	H	E	L	A	W
I	L	I	E	■	O	Z	Z	I	E	■	S	I	R	E
T	O	T	S	■	W	A	Y	N	E	■	E	A	R	S

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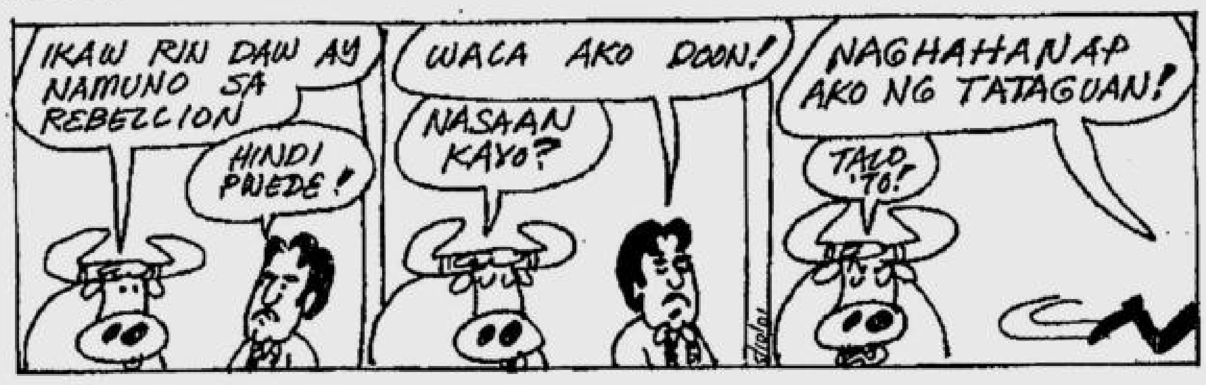
3/24/01

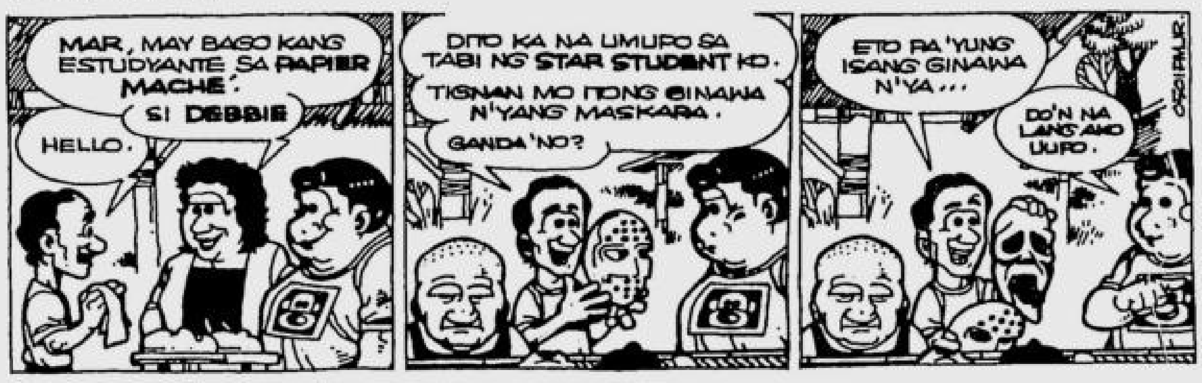
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


IKAW RIN DAW AY NAMUNO SA REBELLION
HINDI PWEDE!
WALA AKO DOON!
NASAAN KAYO?
NAGHAHANAP AKO NG TATAGUAN!
TALO 'TO!

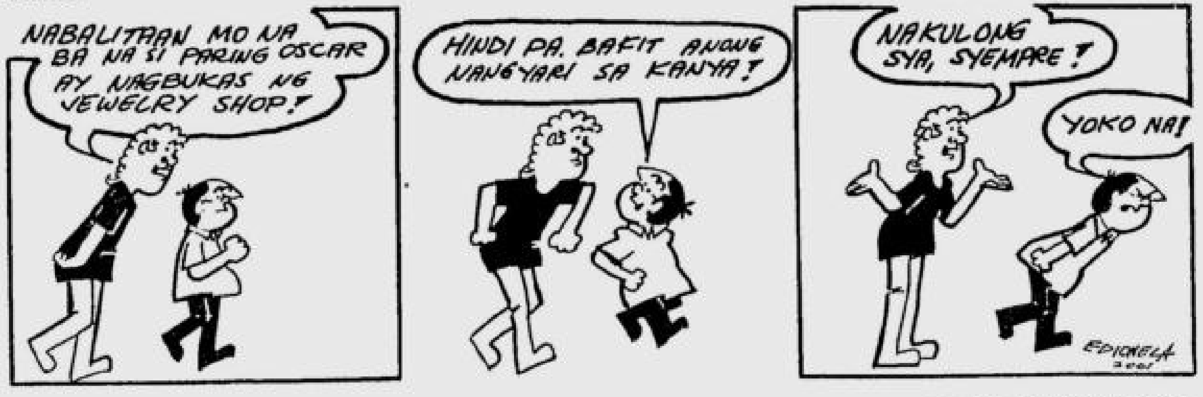
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAR, MAY BAGO KANG ESTUDYANTE SA PAPIER MACHE.
SI DEBBIE
HELLO.
DITO KA NA UMUPO SA TABI NG STAR STUDENT KO.
TIGNAN MO ITONG GINAWA N'YANG MASKARA.
GANDA 'NO?
ETO PA 'YUNG ISANG GINAWA N'YA...
DO'N NA LANG AKO UUPO.

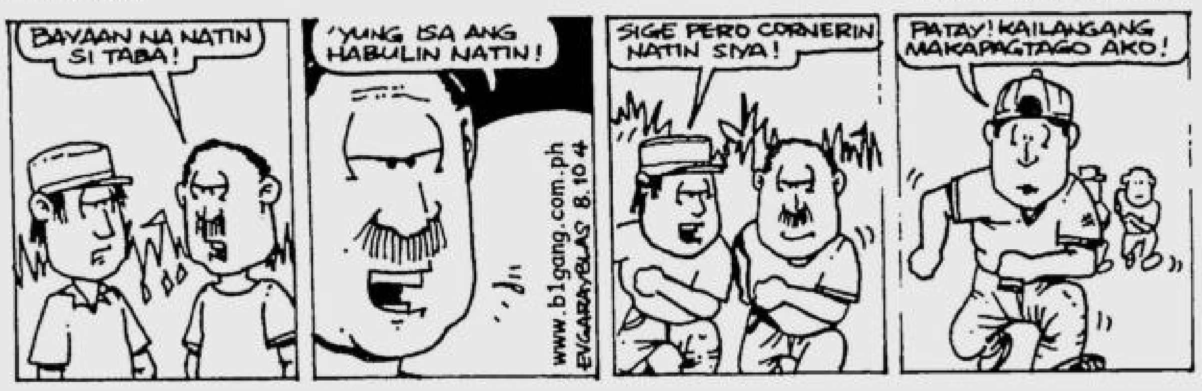
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


NABALITAAN MO NA BA NA SI PARING OSCAR AY NAGBUKAS NG JEWELRY SHOP?
HINDI PA. BAKIT ANONG NANGYARI SA KANYA?
NAKULONG SYA, SYEMPRE?
YOKO NA!
EDIONELA 2001

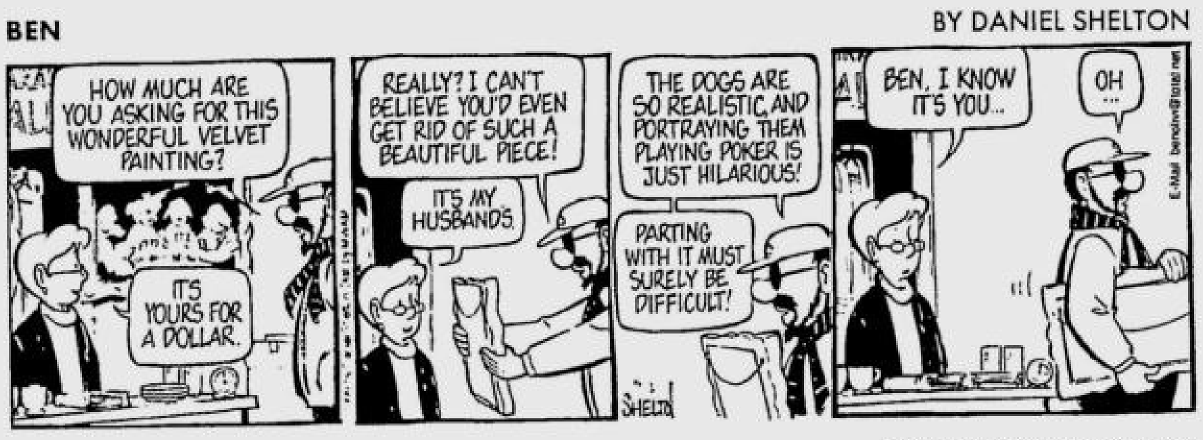
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


BAYAAN NA NATIN SI TABA!
'YUNG ISA ANG HABULIN NATIN!
www.b1gang.com.ph
EVGARAYBLAS 8.10.4
SIGE PERO CORNERIN NATIN SIYA!
PATAY! KAILANGANG MAKAPAGTAGO AKO!

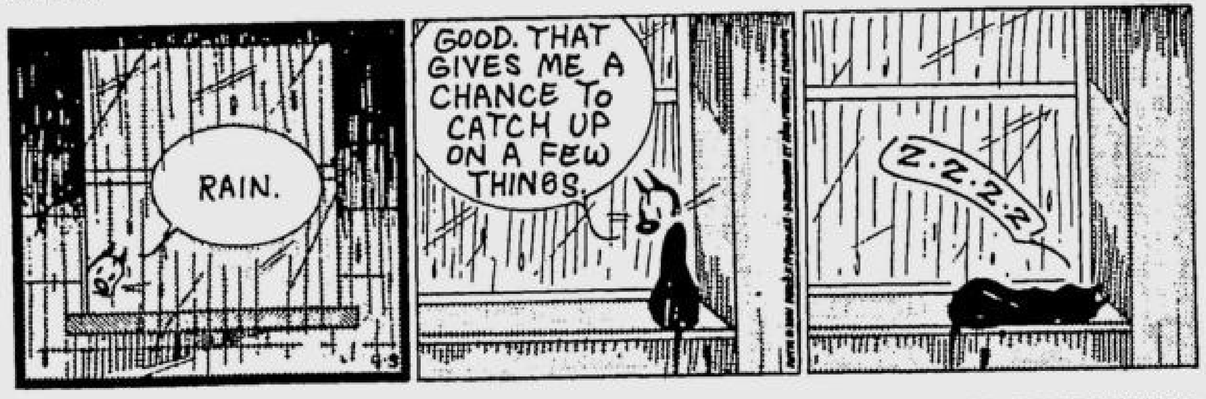
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HOW MUCH ARE YOU ASKING FOR THIS WONDERFUL VELVET PAINTING?
IT'S YOURS FOR A DOLLAR.
REALLY? I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D EVEN GET RID OF SUCH A BEAUTIFUL PIECE!
IT'S MY HUSBAND'S.
THE DOGS ARE SO REALISTIC, AND PORTRAYING THEM PLAYING POKER IS JUST HILARIOUS!
PARTING WITH IT MUST SURELY BE DIFFICULT!
SHELTON
BEN, I KNOW IT'S YOU...
OH ...

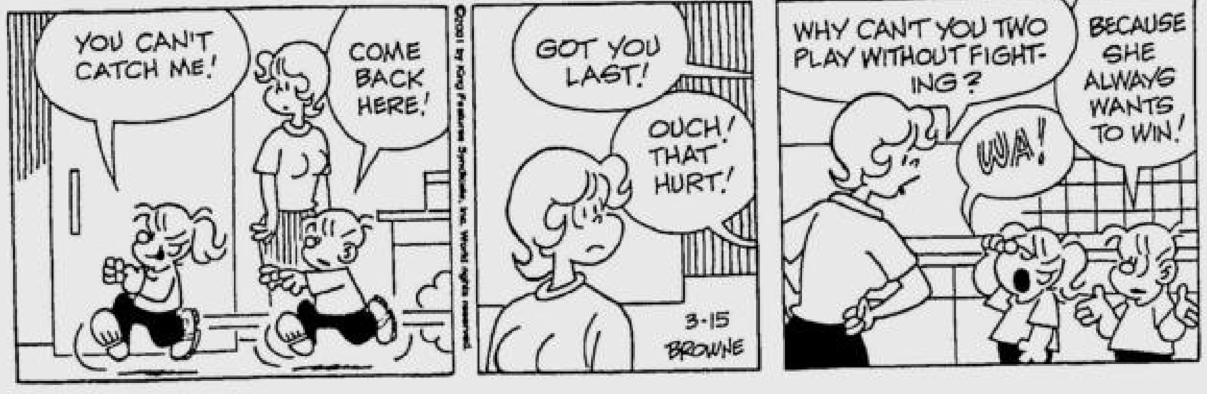
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


RAIN.
GOOD. THAT GIVES ME A CHANCE TO CATCH UP ON A FEW THINGS.
Z.Z.Z.Z

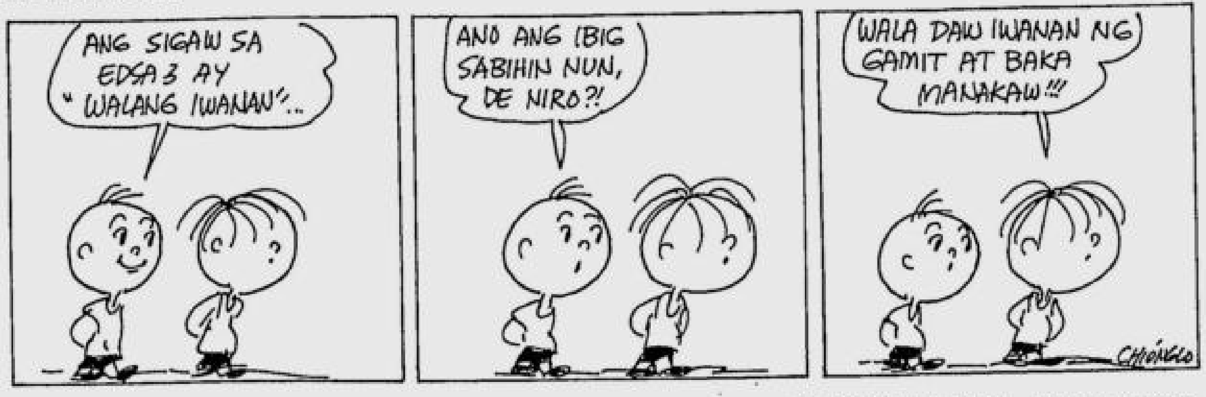
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


YOU CAN'T CATCH ME!
COME BACK HERE!
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
GOT YOU LAST!
OUCH! THAT HURT!
3-15
BROWNE
WHY CAN'T YOU TWO PLAY WITHOUT FIGHTING?
WA!
BECAUSE SHE ALWAYS WANTS TO WIN!

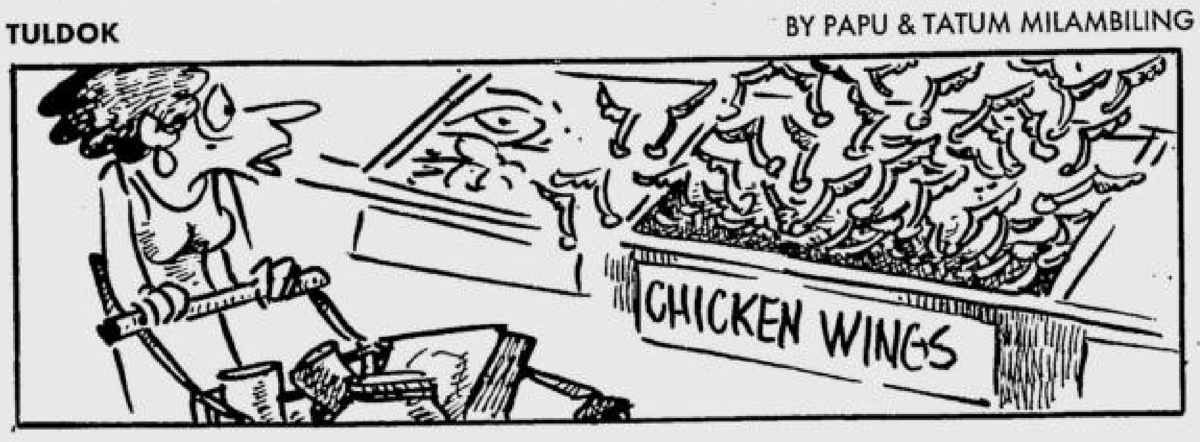
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG SIGAW SA EDSA 3 AY "WALANG IWANAN"...
ANO ANG IBIG SABIHIN NUN, DE NIRO?!
WALA DAW IWANAN NG GAMIT AT BAKA MANAKAW!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


CHICKEN WINGS

A toast to a 500-year-old tradition

BY ALEX Y. VERGARA

The local market for vintage wines is slowly but surely growing, thanks to Bacchus International

CHATEAU Margaux's grand vin 1990 Premier Grand Cru Classe

YOU don't need a fancy degree to acquire a taste for fine wine (Exhibit A is ousted President Estrada). Nor is knowing the wine's origin and vintage essential to your enjoyment.

"As long as the taste appeals to you, you don't have to know where the wine came from and what year it was made," said Corinne Mentzelopoulos. "You don't have to feel intimidated by it."

Mentzelopoulos, one of the owners of the famed Chateau Margaux in Bordeaux, France, recently visited Manila upon the invitation of local wine distributors Alex and Clifford Lichaytoo of Bacchus International.

"I wasn't into wines myself," she confessed. "I didn't have a clue back then, but somehow Bordeaux has grown on me. The more you age, the more you learn new things."

Thanks to her Greek father, Andre, the chateau was saved from near ruin in the aftermath of an industry-wide crisis back in the 1970s. He bought the property from the Ginestet family, Chateau Margaux's original owners almost three decades ago. The daughter took over its reins soon after the father passed away several years later.

Corinne has been credited for steering the centuries-old chateau back to its lofty position, notwithstanding the many competitors within and outside the region. Not bad for a humanities graduate with a master's degree in economics.

Under her stewardship, Chateau Margaux has produced some of the best vintage wines during the last decade. In fact, wine critic James Suckling hailed the 2000 vintage as one of the best entries in the Premier Grand Cu Classe, the Oscars of fine wines.

And what sets Bordeaux wines apart from those sourced from Napa Valley, Chile and Australia? A 500-year-old tradition, she says, which is lacking among winemakers from the New World.

Despite her success, Mentzelopoulos is the first to dismiss her achievements. After all, a definitive guide on winemaking has yet to be written, if at all. Aside from a dedicated team, she credits the chateaux's success to luck, pure and simple. Of course, instinct and right timing have plenty to do with it, too.

"The process is almost the same year after year," she said. "It's still nerve-wracking because when you're out there it's never the same. If a disaster occurs, we might not even make a vintage."

Quality output

There are plenty of external factors to contend with in growing grapes. Because of the frost, for instance, everyone thought 1991 would be a bad year. On the contrary, it turned out to be a good one. Then there was last year's vintage critics have been raving about.

"Last year's grapes were almost ruined by the rains," she shared. "It's wise and reassuring to gather them inside as soon as possible. At the same time, however, you want them to fully ripen so you wait. Sometimes, until it's too late."

CORINNE Mentzelopoulos, the woman behind Chateau Margaux, with Manila's wine connoisseurs led by Alex Lichaytoo and Johnny Litton (first and second from right)

Even if she wants to, Mentzelopoulos is unable to dramatically increase the chateau's output. Quantity, like quality, greatly depends on the yield. "We have no way of forecasting demand" she said. "Our wine is not a brand. The quality [of the wines] is bound to suffer the day we start buying more hectares."

Bacchus distributes Chateau Margaux wines made during the early 1980s and 1990s. The oldest vintage available locally dates back to 1982, says Lichaytoo.

Despite the lingering economic slump, Japan remains the biggest market for French wines in Asia. In fact, says Mentzelopoulos, Japan used to buy wines in "futures," or before they were even blended. Demand has lately shifted to older wines. "We don't have the exact percentages," she says. "The Bordeaux wine merchants deal directly with them [buyers]."

The Philippines is one of the youngest wine markets in the region. "Perhaps we import only two percent of what Hong Kong gets," says Lichaytoo. He based his estimate on the number of Hong Kong importers (100) vis-à-vis their Filipino counterparts (25).

Still, demand has grown from 15-25 percent every year during the past five years.

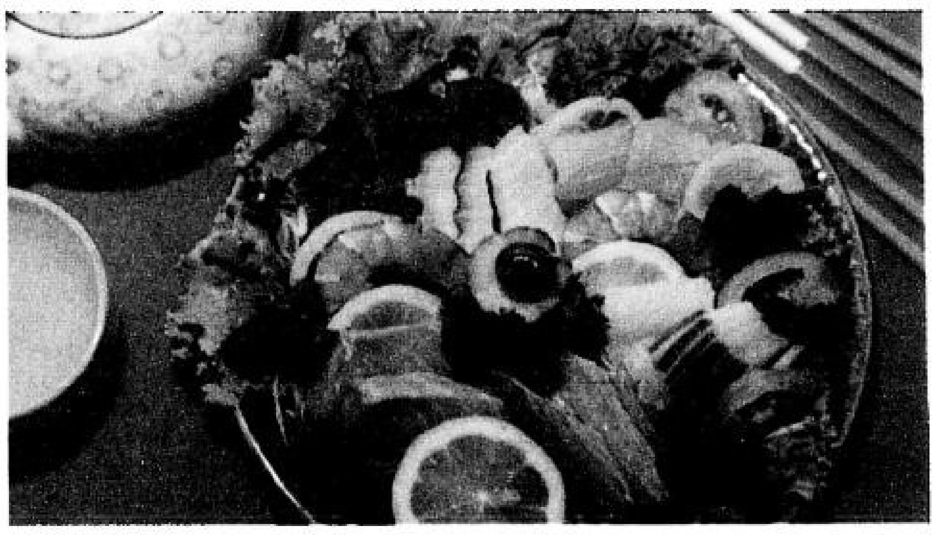
"We're a happy people who love to celebrate and enjoy life," he adds. "So there's a big potential as far as demand for wine is concerned."

He may be right about the demand. Faced with a tense political standoff, every Filipino—be he educated or unlettered, rich or poor, pro or anti, deposed or incumbent—could surely use a glass of wine right now.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

It's Mom's day off so take her out

DINING OUT



SOMETHING LIGHT. Kimpura's *kaisen sarada*, a medley of raw seafood in a bed of fresh greens with a light dressing

SALAD selections at Toque!

TOQUE! Café and Restaurant will reprise its famous Lunch and Dinner Buffets this Mother's Day. Menu items include appetizers such as Waldorf salad, butcher's salad, mussels with curry sauce, minestrone and carrot soups. Entrée choices are seafood thermidor, roast chicken with Beaujolais sauce, beef tenderloin with marsala glaze, and penne pasta with creamy Bolognese sauce, among others. Satisfy your sweet tooth with their popular desserts, such as mango crepes, banana choco chip cake, and fruit platters. Toque! will be open on Mother's Day for both lunch and dinner. Located at 103 Dr. Lazcano St., off T. Morato, QC. Call 373-4737/4705 or 374-4597.

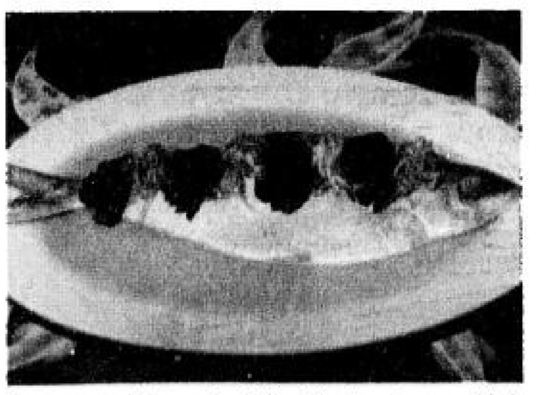
BURGOO will give away special chocolates and roses on May 12 and 13. Popular for its Oklahoma-style Grilled Baby Back Ribs, Buffalo Chicken Wings, Grilled Pork Chop, Grilled Lemon Peppered Lapu-Lapu, pizzas, quesadillas and pastas, Burgoo is open daily from 11a.m.-2 a.m. the following day. Call 927-7424/7384.

PEKING GARDEN, known for its Northern Chinese cuisine like its Hong Kong counterpart, will have a special set menu specially-prepared by its Hong Kong chef from May 11-13. The Chef's Choices set menu for Mom include cold cuts combination, assorted seafood in golden soup, its famous Peking duck, Peking prawns with sweet and spicy sauce, braised abalone cubes with sea cucumber, steamed Hong Kong fish, deep-fried peppercorn crabs, braised noodles with mushrooms and for dessert—chilled almond jelly with fruit cocktails. Located at the 2/L Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati. Call 817-9066/67.

MANILA PENINSULA will serve buffet at The Lobby from 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Nielsen's Restaurant chefs will whip up a Sunday family brunch buffet. The Old Manila will be closed for lunch on Mother's Day, but will reopen for dinner. Mi Piace, The Bar, Spices will open for both lunch and dinner. The Conservatory will serve afternoon tea and a traditional Filipino *merienda* buffet from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Mothers will also get a chance to win gift packs from Rodger Craig International and Orient Day Spa. Call 887-2888.

MANILA GALLERIA will offer special lunch and buffet dinners at the Raphael Café-Restaurant. Make it a Sunday filled with special memories with special gifts from Crabtree & Evelyn and Cosmopolitan. Fabulous surprises are also in store from Jewelmer, David's Salon and Bailey's. Call 633-7111 local 7416/7440.

DISCOVERY SUITES, located at the heart of Ortigas Center, will have a lunch buffet spread. Executive Chef Rick Abasta has lined up a special dinner in honor Mom's honor. Pinwheel of fresh tuna with sesame salmon tartar, pickled julienne vegetables and sweet soy wasabi; choice between Two-color roasted pepper bisque with minted pea cappuccino or roasted herbed tomato salad with baked buffalo mozzarella cake and honey mustard dressing to begin with; a choice between a combination of braised leg of lamb wrapped in greens and grilled lamb chop with carrot mousses artichoke and ginger Merlot sauce or salmon fillet poached in shrimp oil with asparagus broth, shoestring fritters and asparagus for the main course; and chocolate strawberry shortcake with Grand Marnier creme and strawberry coulis for dessert. Located at 25 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig.



HONG Kong's popular Hilsa Herring steamed fish is included in Peking Garden's Chef's Choices set menu for Mother's Day celebration.

KIMPURA, the Japanese fine-dining restaurant, says "Okasan Arigato," by giving away one set of traditional Japanese chopsticks for every dining mom on May 13 during lunch and dinner. Located at 2/L Glorietta 2, Makati (893-2307/892-4456) and Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan (721-8816/8869).

RICHMONDE showcases Continental and Oriental favorites from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Richmonde Grill on May 13. Highlights include Smoked Salmon Platter, Sushi and Sashimi Festival and a taco station for appetizer; Fish Head Curly, Lobster Tails in Garlic Caper Sauce, Beef Tenderloin with Bigarade Sauce, Osso Busco and a *lechon* for entree; and Green Tea Mousse, Pistachio Roll and Walnut Torte for dessert. Located along San Miguel Avenue corner Lourdes Street at the Vertigo business district in Pasig City. Call 638-7777 local 3401 and 3409.

JADE GARDEN will have special a set menu for 10 persons. Included are Hong Kong dishes such as roasted meat combination, fish lips with chicken soup, premium-sized squids with shrimps and broccoli, oil-simmered pink *lapu-lapu*, black mushrooms with sea cucumber, chicken with lemon sauce, crabs with *tausi* and garlic, Yeoung Chow fried rice and two desserts—almond jelly with fruit cocktails and sweet dimsum pastries. Located at Greenbelt Mall, Ayala Center, Makati. Call 892-2319/2636.

SBARRO will give away a specially made candle on May 12 and 13 to customers who make a minimum food purchase of P300. Sbarro the Italian Eatery has branches at SM City, SM Megamall, Glorietta 2, Robinsons Place and Festival Supermall.

CENTURY PARK'S lunch or dinner buffet boasts of over 130 cold and hot selections. The hotel's Family Fiesta buffet features favorite Filipino cuisine prepared by the hotel's chefs. Famous native dessert and a free drink will complete the meal. There will be cakes specially made for Mom at the Cafe in the Park. Call 528-8888 local 5814 to -16.

EDSA SHANGRI-LA offers a special Mother's Day room package from May 11-14. This special offer comes with a buffet breakfast for two persons on all three days. On May 12 and 13, the Garden Cafe offers a lunch buffet Spread of Herbed Roast Beef, Pan-fried Salmon, Roast Rack Lamb Provencal and many more. Moms will get a free miniature cake and groups of 30 or more people will get a free overnight stay. Summer Palace prepares special lunch and dinner set menus for 10 to 12 persons from May 12-15. Moms over 60 also get to lunch for free by simply presenting their senior citizen card. Kids 12 years and younger also get a complimentary meal. An on-the-spot cake decorating activity will also be held. Call 633-8888.

KIKKOMAN Gives Life to every dish!
KIKKOMAN
NATURALLY BREWED
Soy Sauce
NET 1 LITRE
Give your dish a high. Cook it with KIKKOMAN and fuel the flavor of your food.

KIKKOMAN

May is mango time

Hitsurang puso (Heart-shaped)
Kulay balat-saging (Banana peel-colored)
Masarap ang samyo (Delicious aroma)
Masarap kung kanin (A pleasure to eat)

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

IT is the mango, of course, and no riddle for the Filipino.

And now "It's May, it's May, the lusty month of May..." as the folk sang in Camelot, which for the Filipino it is traditional mango time. Although mangoes are now available year round, May has long been the time of picnics on river banks, trips to Antipolo where *mangga't suman* abound, *kaing-kaing* of green or gold or green-gold fruit in the markets.

The mango, called by The Oxford Companion to Food "one of the finest and most popular tropical fruits," has been cultivated in India since 2000 BC or earlier, thus the scientific name, *mangifera indica*. It is truly an ancient and contemporary delight, appearing in myths and legends. In Indian Vedic literature, for example, a tale is told of the transformation of the Lord of Creatures, Prajapati, later the Lord of Procreation. Surya Bai, daughter of the sun, became a golden lotus in order to escape an evil sorceress. When the King fell in love with the lotus, the sorceress burnt it to ashes. From the ashes sprang a mango tree, and when the ripe fruit fell to the ground, Surya Bai stepped out from it, and was recognized by the King as his long-lost love.

We eat it green, we eat it ripe; we bake it, pickle it, freeze it and brag about it

In the Philippines, legends always link it to golden hearts: of obedient daughters like Aganhon of Kalibu and Manda, whose fathers Daogdog (thunder) and Chief Sindatun wanted them to marry men they did not love; or of kind people like Ben and Dominga, who succored the needy, fell ill, and gave their golden hearts to the new tree that grew out of their grave.

We know it more intimately as *kalabaw* (large and fleshy) or *piko* (pointed like a bird's beak); as the white Manobo/Tausug *baluno* or *balunot*; as *paho* (*mangifera altissima*). We eat it green with *bagoong* as a salad, a relish or a snack (note the skill with which street vendors peel it, skin strips hanging like petals, without touching it with bare hands). We eat it ripe, pinching off a bit of skin, then peeling this off in a strip, round and round, biting into it, sucking and sipping flesh and juice in intertwining pleasure. Someone has commented that this method is delicious but messy; eat it in a bathtub, or in a river.

We also slice it politely and eat it with rice or as dessert, at home and in restaurants. As children we used to eat it with milk and sugar. Our mothers make it into frozen mango, sherbet, jams, pickles (*burong mangga*; *mangga rechada*). We can't live without it, and defend it fiercely as the best in the world.

MANGOES in bloom

HARVEST ready

Zambales harvest

Paho, which hangs beautifully in bunches, I have paid special attention to this year, because Judy Lao makes it into a lovely pickle, cut in halves and lightly sugared. Filo Batungbacal chooses tiny whole ones, all olive-sized. Some eat it fresh for its lip-puckering sourness, while my sister Della Besa uses it as an olive substitute for her pasta sauce with flaked *tuyo*.

Filo and her children grow some of the best mangoes (Betagro) in the country in a farm in Zambales which her late husband Moy started years ago. Son Rico works full-time in the orchard, guiding the mangoes to growth, and is now challenged to have them all year round by dwarfing an area through pruning and "roofing" the trees. He is also venturing into producing other quality fruits and vegetables intercropped with the mango trees.

The harvest, this year from May 5 to the first week of June, is taken to Filo's home, where she personally sorts, weighs and distributes it (call 714-7935, 716-6178; Alabang 850-9284, 842-6837). Export she refuses to do; we Filipinos have a right to our best mangoes, she says. And she does have the best—sweet and firm, yellow edging to green or vice versa, a perfect dream of mango-ness. She also has the small *biyuko* with the cardboard-thin seed, believed to be medicinal. The excellence has spoiled many of her customers; they see everything in comparison to Filo's mangoes. As by-product, she makes Filo's Finest mango pickles, and incidentally also beef *tapa*, *longanisa* and pork *tocino*.

We believe that the mango tree has medicinal uses. Mango leaf tea counteracts colds, hoarseness, cough and bronchial diseases; leaves dried and powdered treat diabetes; leaf ashes heal bums. The bark figures in hot lotions for rheumatism; a root decoction aces as a diuretic; the dried flowers relieve diarrhea and dysentery; the gum resin mixed with oil counters scabies and other parasitic skin diseases.

Sweet dessert

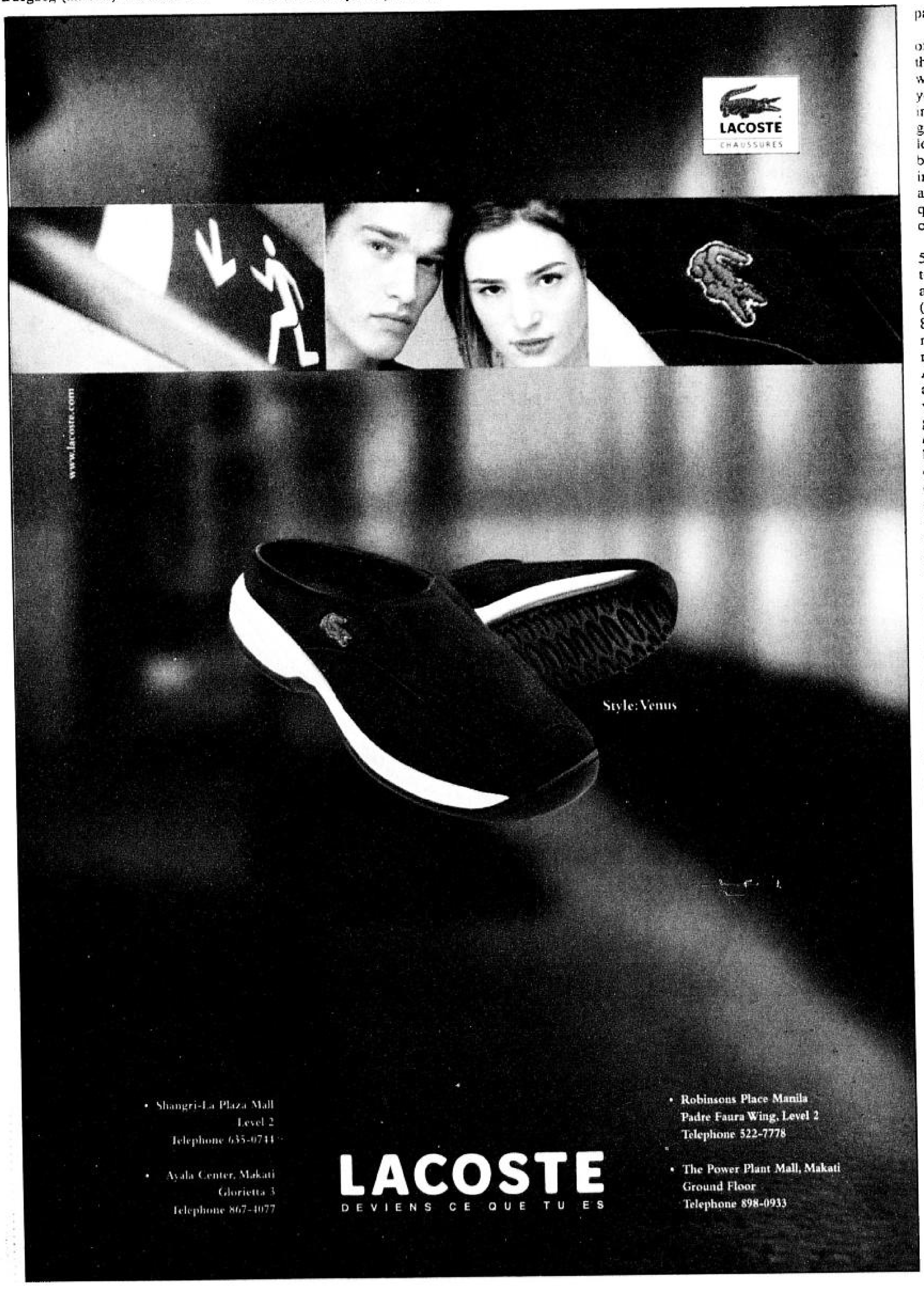
Nor should we forget the contemporary mango apple and the guapple. Nor the desserts that come from them and the basic mango—ice cream, ice drops, sorbets, *pastillas de manga*, *flan de manga*,and, more recently, crepes (sometimes called Crepes Samurai). Glenda Barretto has invented a fruit salsa, and a mango-anise sauce for roast duck or chicken. Gene Gonzalez's Roulade of Bangus Belly in Squid Sauce features Mango Beurre Blanc; his Terrine of Asian Dried Fruits in Ylang-Ylang Custard Sauce has mango with it.

Consider as well the dried mango packs that console homesick Filipinos abroad. And green and ripe mango juice, California *maki sushi* with mango. Mango leaves are used to stuff *lechon* in Cebu.

Although the mango grows in many places—in different traditions, folklore and soil—it has favored the Philippines in special ways. Juan J. Delgado, S.J., wrote in 1892 that it was brought in from the coast of Macao, but was in plentiful growth in Manila and its environs. Juan Francisco de San Antonio wrote in 1738: "In my opinion, it is the most sensuous fruit there is.... here it grows so well that it seems to be in its own native environment." It is now one of our most successful commercial products, supplied to local and foreign hotels and restaurants, and used as base for canned concentrates and juices.

Thank heaven then, and also history and geography (our soil, our weather) for this golden-hearted gift. Celebrate its mouthwatering glory. A song in Precioso Palma's *zarzuela* "Paglipas ng Dilim" declares: "*Anong sarap, inyong tikman/ ang naritong manggang hilaw.../ kapag inyong nasarapan huy! nakakatulo ng laway.*"

We are indeed blest.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